Historical Sketch

first parts only.[1] The chariots were large, and hung round with bells, and, together with the elephants, carried the chief men of the army. The infantry were probably armed with a spear or short broad sword, and with bows and arrows. They wore a turban and girdle, short breeches, and a piece of leather about the loins, from which were suspended a number of small bells. The cavalry were not then so numerous as in later times. The plan of a campaign is simple, as might be expected, being drawn up by Brahmins. The king is to march when the vernal or autumnal crop is on the ground, and is to advance straight to the capital. When marching he is to "form his troops "either like a staff or in an even column, or in a wedge with the apex fore-"most, like a boar, or in a rhomb, with the van and rear narrow and the "centre broad, like a macara, or sea monster, that is, in a double triangle "with the apices joined; like a needle, or in a long line; or like the bud of "Vishnu, that is, in a rhomboid, with wings far extended. Let him at his "pleasure order a few men to engage in a close phalanx, or a larger number "in loose ranks, and having formed them in a long line like a needle, or in "three divisions like a thunderbolt, let him give orders for battle. On a "plain let him fight with his armed cars and horses, on watery places with "manned boats and elephants, on ground full of trees and shrubs with bows, "on cleared ground with swords and targets and other weapons."

One hundred bowmen in a fort are said to be a match for 10,000 enemies, so far was the art of attack behind that of defence.

Their castles were built on precipitous rocks, and were impregnable to an enemy who possessed no warlike engines.

The laws of war are honourable and humane. Poisoned and mischievously barbed arrows, and fire arrows, are prohibited. Among those who must always be spared are unarmed or wounded men, and those who have broken their weapon, or who surrender themselves and beg for their lives.

The different "puranas" contain allusions to works on the art of war, called *Dhanur Veda*, or the science of bows, none of which unfortunately have been preserved, but from the Agni[2] Purana we learn that the bow was the principal weapon of war.

"The Hindus," says the Abbé Dubois, "have 32 different kinds of weapons, "and each of the 32 gods has his own peculiar weapon.[3] Krishna and Ram "are armed with a battle-axe and a bow and arrow. Vishnu holds the "'chakra" (steel quoit). Kartikeya, the god of war, and Ravan, the giant, bear in their hundred arms a display of every species of military offensive

There has been considerable controversy as to the extent to which firearms were known at this period. Sir H. Elliot comes to the conclusion, after examining all the best authorities, that they were used (see Vol. VI., p. 481, History of India, Appendix). Rockets, or weapons of fire, "Agny astra," were certainly known at a very early period. They were a kind of fire-tipped dart, discharged horizontally from a bamboo, and were used against cavalry. The invention is ascribed by the "puranas" to Visvacarma, their Vulcan, who for 100 years forged all the weapons for the wars between the good and bad spirits. The knowledge, however, of the manufacture of gunpowder or some material composed of sulphur and saltpetre, and the use of projectiles, probably died out before the historic times, and only an inflammable projectile or naphtha ball was used till the revival of firearms from the West.

The period just described may be characterised as the legendary and heroic age of India. Already, in that remote age, there appears to have existed an intercourse for purposes of trade, dating probably from the earliest times, between India and the countries on the seaboard of the Mediterranean, and especially Phœnicia. It is probable that Southern India is the land of Ophir from which Solomon obtained "gold and silver, ivory and apes, and peacocks"[1] (I Kings, x. 22). Of Indian manufactured products, probably iron and steel were the most important, as even at so early a date as that of the Institutes of Menu, iron is mentioned as an article of great consumption. In later times they are mentioned in the "Periplus" as imports into the Abyssinian ports.

But it is only with the appearance of the Greeks that the historic age of India may be said to commence. Already in Herodotus[2] and Ctesias we find allusions to the Indians who followed Xerxes to Greece, and who came probably from the Punjab. They wore cotton dresses, and carried bows of cane with iron-tipped arrows.

The Eastern Ethiopians, who came from Bilúchistán, and were probably of a Cushite race, were marshalled with the Indians, and their equipment in most points resembled that of the Indians, but they wore on their heads scalps of horses with the ears and mane attached; the ears were made to stand upright, and the mane served as a crest. For shields they made use of the skins of cranes. The cavalry were dressed in like manner; they rode in chariots drawn by horses and wild asses.

Herodotus[4] tells us that the Indians (probably those in Sind) clothe them-

general Rustum, according to the Persian writers, penetrated into the heart of India. At a later time Darius sent an expedition under Scylax to the mouth of the Indus, and probably conquered a few provinces on the banks of the Indus, which were made into a satrapy, and paid tribute to himself and his successors.

But it is only since the invasion of India by Alexander in the year 327 B.C. that India is brought into a direct contact with the classic world. The relations then established lasted for several centuries, and we owe to them the full descriptions of India found in the contemporary classic authors. From the accounts of Quintus Curtius [1] we learn something of the character and condition of Indian armies at that period, how gallant was their defence, but how little able they were to oppose the superior tactics of the Greeks. Alexander crossed the Jhelum by a stratagem, taking advantage of the cover afforded by a wooded island. The opposing force of Porus consisted of 85 elephants, 300 chariots, each of which carried six men, two bearing shields, two archers, and two driving the horses and throwing darts; 30,000 foot, among whom were archers who shot barbed arrows difficult to extract, and 4,000 horse. Alexander's first onset was with the chariots, which got into confusion from the slippery nature of the ground, and lost their drivers, after inflicting some damage on the Macedonian infantry by the vigour of their charge. The elephants formed the second line, and behind them were the infantry, and the archers who beat drums during the fight.

The Macedonian phalanx pressed them in front, and the cavalry took them in flank. The elephants, on which they most relied, were maimed by the axes and swords of the Greeks, and at last gave way, and the capture of Porus put an end to the fight.

The next object of Alexander's ambition was to attack the great Gangetic kingdom of Magadha beyond the Sutlej. Its king could bring 30,000 cavalry, 600,000 foot, and 9,000 elephants [2] into the field. Alexander's troops, however, refused to cross the Sutlej, and after his death we have no further accounts from India, till one of his successors, Seleucus, crossed the Indus, and defeated Sandracottus (Chandragupta), and the whole strength of the Magadha empire. The result of that expedition was that he sent as his ambassador to that monarch Megasthenes, from whom we derive some knowledge of Indian arms at that time.[3]

The accounts of the Greek historians and geographers refer only to the earlier part of the period just mentioned, but they may be supplemented by a mass of invaluable contemporary evidence in support of history in the shape of coins and sculptured bas-reliefs, extending from the 3rd century B.C. to the 15th A.D.

The art of coinage seems to have been introduced into India by the Bactrian Greeks, and the numerous coins extant of the Bactrian and other dynasties of Northern India frequently afford most interesting illustrations of the arms of the period.

The Indo-Scythian kings, the successors of the Bactrian dynasty, are represented on their coins as wearing coats of chain mail, with a short straight sword sheathed by their side, and a lance. Kanerki holds a short curved sword, others hold a club and a short sword or dagger. (*See* Fig. 1.)

Fig. 1.—Coin of Vasu Deva, Indo-Scythic King, King of N.W. India in the 2d or 3rd century A.D.[1] (E. Coll.)

The most accurate description, however, of the early Indian arms may be obtained from the sculptures of the Sánchi (*see* Fig. 2), and other topes described by Cunningham and Fergusson. "In one of them," says Cunningham, "there is the representation of a siege, probably undertaken "to recover possession of some holy relic. The soldiers wear a tight fitting "dress and kilt; the arms are a sword and "bows and arrows.[2] The swords are short "and broad, and tally exactly with the de-"scription of Megasthenes."[3] "All wear "swords of a vast breadth, though not ex-"ceeding 3 cubits in length; when they "engage in close fight they grasp these with "both hands to fetch down a lustier blow." At the same time "the infantry usually car-"ried a bow of the same length with the "bearer." This agrees with the bas-reliefs, which represent nearly all the foot soldiers as archers; but the less ancient bows are much shorter than the bearers, and do not appear to have been more than 4 feet in length

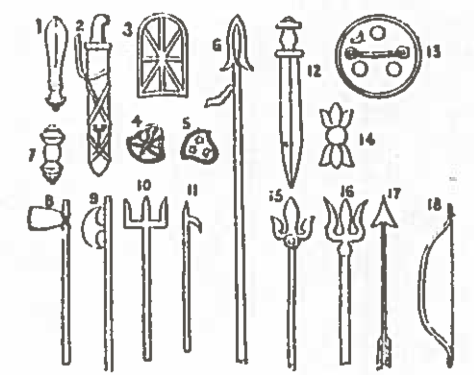


Fig. 2.—Arms from Sanchi and Udayagiri.

whole much exceed 200,000. The infantry, including the artillery, might amount to 15,000. The foot soldiers, said to compose the mass of the army, consisted mostly of camp followers. When the imperial troops marched, all Delhi and Agra might be described as proceeding along with them; on the other hand the camps, with their streets of tents and bazaars, might be viewed as moving cities. His estimate of the quality of the soldiers was low; they fought with great bravery, but as they were destitute of all discipline they were frequently struck with panic and became incapable of command.

The heavy Mogul cavalry covered with armour, and the elephants with their towers full of armed men, were able to manœuvre with facility on the plains of India or on the table land of the Deccan; but the defects of their military organisation were clearly revealed when at the end of the seventeenth century they were brought into collision with the rising power of the Mahrattas, whose country was more hilly and required a lighter equipped and more active cavalry to march with rapidity.[1] The Mahrattas had long served as mercenaries in the armies of the contending Mahomedan kings of the Deccan. But it was the genius of Sívají that laid the foundation of their military reputation. He himself, though of good birth, could never write his name, but was a good archer and marksman and skilled in the use of the spear, and the various swords and daggers common in the Deccan. He first of all organized the infantry. They were raised in the máwal or mountain valleys in the Ghauts and the Concan. They brought their own arms, and were only furnished with ammunition by the State. Their dress, though not uniform, consisted of a turban cloth round the waist tightly girt about the loins, and a pair of short drawers coming half way down the thigh, a turban and sometimes a cotton frock; they were generally armed with sword, shield, and matchlock; some of them were armed with a species of flint firelock, which invention had early been received from the Portuguese. Every tenth man carried a bow and arrows, which were useful in night attacks and surprises, when firearms were kept in reserve or prohibited. The Hetkarís or down-country men of the Southern Concan excelled as marksmen, while the Máwalis were celebrated for their desperate attacks with the sword. Every ten men had an officer called a "Naík," every fifty a "Havildár." The officer over a hundred was called "Jumladár," and over a thousand "Ek-hazárí."

The cavalry had a like organization: to every 25 horsemen a "Havildár," to 125 a "Jumladár," to 625 a "Súbahdár," to 6,250, who were rated as 5,000, a "Panch-házari." The chief commander for cavalry ...

(Chapter II)

Plate II.



The standard and national flag of the Mahrattas was called "Bhagwá Jhaṇḍá;" it is swallow-tailed and of a deep orange colour emblematic of the followers of Mahadeo.

Like all successful generals in the East, Sivaji gained the affections of his soldiers by liberal gifts when they were victorious. At the capture of Singharh he gave to every private soldier a silver bangle. His conquests were principally owing to the rapidity with which his light cavalry moved and surprised his enemy, nor was he wanting in those artifices with which he first lulled his foe into security, and then surprised him unawares. It was thus that he murdered the general of the army of Bíjapur, Afzal Khan, after inviting him to a conference, in which each should come with one attendant only. The latter dressed in a thin muslin garment, armed only with his sword, and attended by a single armed follower, advanced in his palanquin to an open bungalow prepared for the occasion. Sivaji made his preparations to receive him. He put on a steel chain cap and chain armour under his turban and cotton gown, concealed a crooked dagger or "bichhwá" (scorpion) in his right sleeve, and on the fingers of his left hand he fixed a "wághnak" (a steel instrument with three curved blades like the claws of a tiger). Thus accoutred he slowly descended from the fort. The Khan had already arrived at the place of meeting, when Sivaji was seen advancing apparently unarmed, and like the Khan attended only by one armed follower.

Sivaji, in view of Afzal Khan frequently stopped, which was represented as the effects of alarm, a supposition more likely to be admitted from his diminutive size. Under pretence of assuring Sivaji, the armed attendant by the contrivance of the Brahmin stood at a few paces distance. Afzul Khan made no objection to Sivaji's follower, though he carried two swords in his waistband, a not uncommon circumstance among the Mahrattas. He advanced two or three paces to meet Sivaji. They were introduced, and in the midst of the customary embrace, Sivaji struck the wagnakh into the bowels of Afzal Khan, who quickly disengaged himself, clapped his hand on his sword, exclaiming "treachery and murder;" but Sivaji instantly followed up the blow with his dagger. The Khan had drawn his sword and made a cut at Sivaji, but the concealed armour was proof against the blow. The whole was the work of a moment, and Sivaji was wresting the weapon from the hand of his victim before the attendants could run towards them. The sword of Afzal Khan is still a valued trophy in the armoury of Sivaji's descendants (Vide Group IX. No. 527, note).[1]

"pletely armed and accoutred, drawn from Cabul, Kandahar, Lahore, "Mooltan, and the extended provinces of his empire." His infantry was composed of musqueteers, matchlock men, and archers, besides bodies of hardy Bundelás and Mewátís, trained to predatory contests among the mountains. In addition to these many thousands were raised in the Carnatic. There were several hundred pieces of cannon, manned by natives, and directed by European gunners. The imperial camp was fitted with every luxury which a court could require. A menagerie accompanied the court, a complete armoury, and every necessary for field sport.

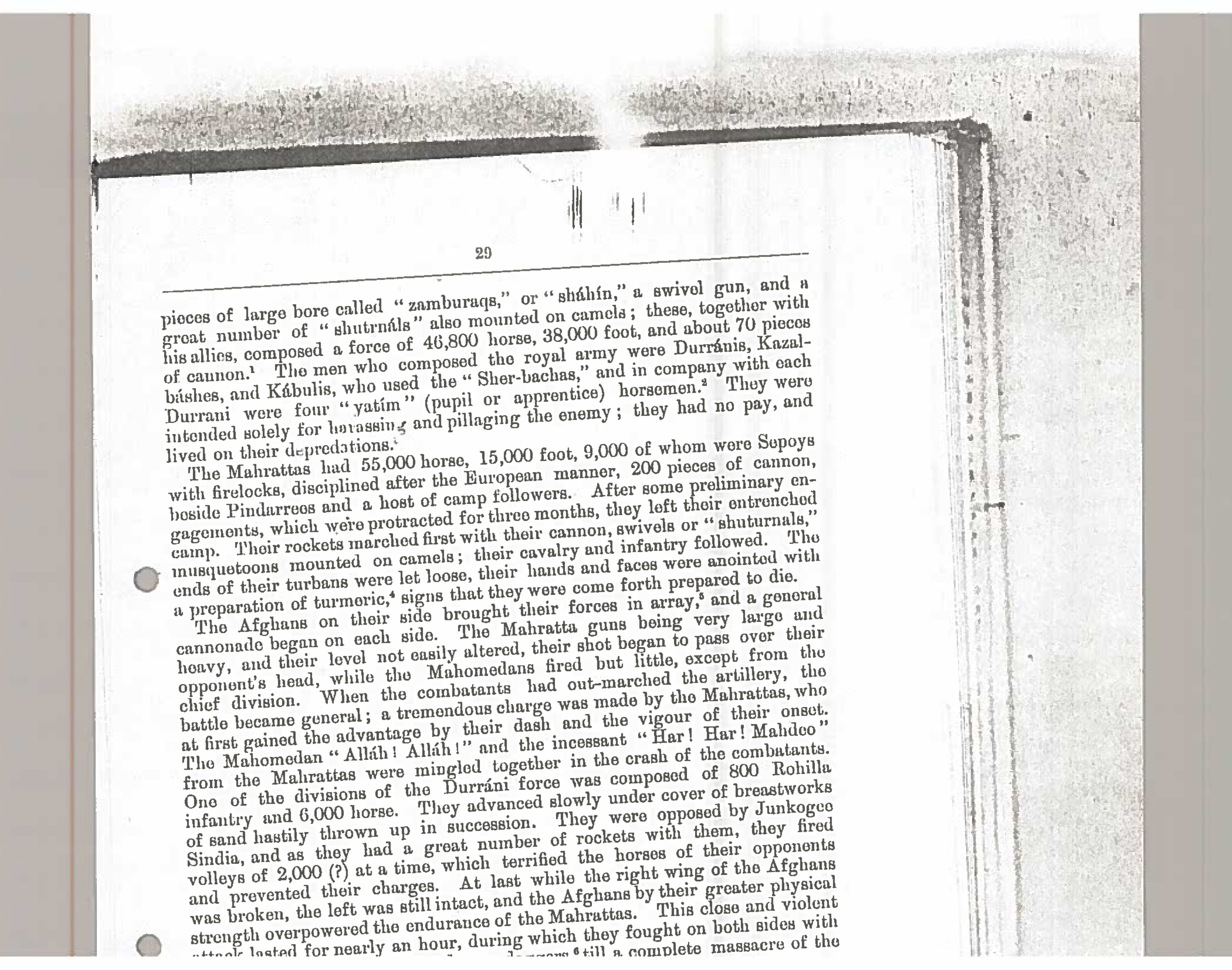
The capture and death of Sambaji did not, however, prevent the irregular bands of Mahrattas from making inroads upon the neighbouring countries, and from this time they appear constantly on the scene till they became the chief power in India.

CHAPTER III.

FROM THE DEATH OF AURUNGZEBE TO THE FALL OF THE MOGUL EMPIRE.

The death of Aurungzebe was the first step in the decline of the Mogul empire, which owing to a succession of feeble emperors now gradually broke up. The Rajputs regained their independence, the Sikhs[1] commenced their ravages in the Punjab, and the Mahrattas under the able management of Balaji Viswanath, the founder of the Brahmin dynasty of the Peshwas, established their power on a secure basis, and claimed to levy by their own officers or Mahratta chiefs, the "chout," or fourth part of the revenue of the districts ceded to them as payment for immunity from their depredations. Under Muhammad Shah, the two powerful ministers who, respectively governed Oude and the Deccan, Sa'ádat Khan and A'ṣaf-Jáh, Nizám ul Mulk, established their authority in those provinces nominally as viceroys, but virtually as independent sovereigns.

This gradual decay of the Mahomedan power at Delhi invited the invasion of Nadir Shah, 1739, who, having risen against the Afghans who had conquered Persia, drove them out and followed up his successes into Afghan-



pieces of large bore called "zamburaqs," or "sháhín," a swivel gun, and a
great number of "shutrnáls" also mounted on camels; these, together with
his allies, composed a force of 46,800 horse, 38,000 foot, and about 70 pieces
of cannon.[1] The men who composed the royal army were Durránis, Kazal-
báshes, and Kábulis, who used the "Sher-bachas," and in company with each
Durrani were four "yatím" (pupil or apprentice) horsemen.[2] They were
intended solely for harassing and pillaging the enemy; they had no pay, and
lived on their depredations.

The Mahrattas had 55,000 horse, 15,000 foot, 9,000 of whom were Sepoys
with firelocks, disciplined after the European manner, 200 pieces of cannon,
beside Pindarrees and a host of camp followers. After some preliminary en-
gagements, which were protracted for three months, they left their entrenched
camp. Their rockets marched first with their cannon, swivels or "shuturnals,"
musquetoons mounted on camels; their cavalry and infantry followed. The
ends of their turbans were let loose, their hands and faces were anointed with
a preparation of turmeric,[4] signs that they were come forth prepared to die.

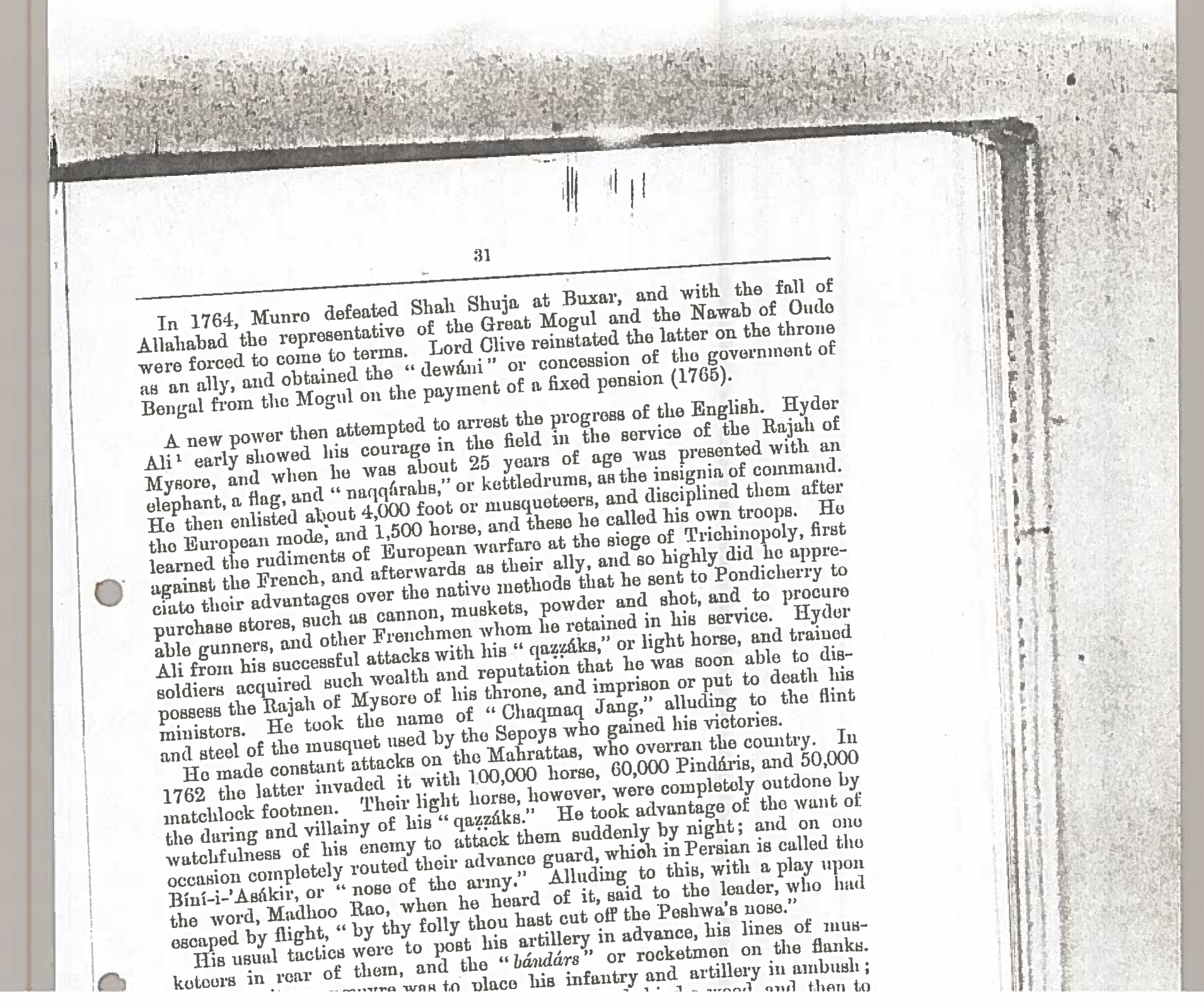
The Afghans on their side brought their forces in array,[5] and a general
cannonade began on each side. The Mahratta guns being very large and
heavy, and their level not easily altered, their shot began to pass over their
opponent's head, while the Mahomedans fired but little, except from the
chief division. When the combatants had out-marched the artillery, the
battle became general; a tremendous charge was made by the Mahrattas, who
at first gained the advantage by their dash and the vigour of their onset.
The Mahomedan "Alláh! Alláh!" and the incessant "Har! Har! Mahdeo"
from the Mahrattas were mingled together in the crash of the combatants.
One of the divisions of the Durráni force was composed of 800 Rohilla
infantry and 6,000 horse. They advanced slowly under cover of breastworks
of sand hastily thrown up in succession. They were opposed by Junkogee
Sindia, and as they had a great number of rockets with them, they fired
volleys of 2,000 (?) at a time, which terrified the horses of their opponents
and prevented their charges. At last while the right wing of the Afghans
was broken, the left was still intact, and the Afghans by their greater physical
strength overpowered the endurance of the Mahrattas. This close and violent
attack lasted for nearly an hour, during which they fought on both sides with
... daggers,[6] till a complete massacre of the

which completely changed the character of Indian history. From their first establishment in Southern India, the French and the English acquire a preponderating influence over the various native powers with whom they come into contact. The ascendancy of the European element is shown in the fact that even the native powers which remain independent gradually abandon their old methods of warfare and adopt European armament and military organisation, and engage European officers for the command of their armies; and before the close of the period described in this chapter both Mahomedan and Mahratta have to relinquish their claims to the Empire of India, and England appears as the power paramount over the whole country in a far more extended sense than can be applied to any previous ruling power.

In 1746 the French took and held the settlement of Madras for a short period, till it was restored to the English by treaty at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1748. In the struggle that followed the death of the Viceroy of the Deccan, the French and English took different sides. The English supported the claims of Názir Jang and Mahomed 'Ali, who became respectively Subahdár of the Deccan and Nawab of the Carnatic. The French took up the cause of Muzaffar Jang and Chandá Sáhib. On the murder of Názir Jang by one of his chiefs, 1750, Muzaffar Jang, by the aid of the troops under Dupleix, obtained the throne of the Deccan, and gave his allies a large territory round Pondicherry and Masulipatam. His successor Salábat Jang was installed in 1751, at Aurungábád as Subahdár of the Deccan by Bussy, and was probably the first to allow native troops to be trained in European discipline. The latter took advantage of his position to dictate to the Subahdár the concession of large territories to the French. Thus the whole Deccan was placed virtually under the French.

The success of the French discouraged the English, who suffered some reverses, till Clive, with only 200 Europeans and 300 Sepoys, took Arcot in 1752. The English then relieved Trichinopoly, closely invested by the French, and reseated their ally Mahomed 'Ali, the Nawab of the Carnatic, on the *masnad* of Arcot.[1] After the departure of Dupleix hostilities again broke out between Lally and the English, and the war was closed by the defeat of the French on the field of Wandewash, 1759, and the capture of Pondicherry by Coote in 1761. This shattered the power of the French in India, and from henceforth the English were the dominant power.

In Bengal Clive had recovered Calcutta from the Nawab of



In 1764, Munro defeated Shah Shuja at Buxar, and with the fall of Allahabad the representative of the Great Mogul and the Nawab of Oude were forced to come to terms. Lord Clive reinstated the latter on the throne as an ally, and obtained the "dewáni" or concession of the government of Bengal from the Mogul on the payment of a fixed pension (1765).

A new power then attempted to arrest the progress of the English. Hyder Ali[1] early showed his courage in the field in the service of the Rajah of Mysore, and when he was about 25 years of age was presented with an elephant, a flag, and "naqqárahs," or kettledrums, as the insignia of command. He then enlisted about 4,000 foot or musqueteers, and disciplined them after the European mode, and 1,500 horse, and these he called his own troops. He learned the rudiments of European warfare at the siege of Trichinopoly, first against the French, and afterwards as their ally, and so highly did he appreciate their advantages over the native methods that he sent to Pondicherry to purchase stores, such as cannon, muskets, powder and shot, and to procure able gunners, and other Frenchmen whom he retained in his service. Hyder Ali from his successful attacks with his "qazzáks," or light horse, and trained soldiers acquired such wealth and reputation that he was soon able to dispossess the Rajah of Mysore of his throne, and imprison or put to death his ministers. He took the name of "Chaqmaq Jang," alluding to the flint and steel of the musquet used by the Sepoys who gained his victories.

He made constant attacks on the Mahrattas, who overran the country. In 1762 the latter invaded it with 100,000 horse, 60,000 Pindáris, and 50,000 matchlock footmen. Their light horse, however, were completely outdone by the daring and villainy of his "qazzáks." He took advantage of the want of watchfulness of his enemy to attack them suddenly by night; and on one occasion completely routed their advance guard, which in Persian is called the Bíní-i-'Asákir, or "nose of the army." Alluding to this, with a play upon the word, Madhoo Rao, when he heard of it, said to the leader, who had escaped by flight, "by thy folly thou hast cut off the Peshwa's nose."

His usual tactics were to post his artillery in advance, his lines of musketeers in rear of them, and the "*bándárs*" or rocketmen on the flanks; ... was to place his infantry and artillery in ambush; ... wood and then to

GROUP X.

ARMS OF NORTH-WESTERN INDIA.

This group comprises the arms of North-Western India. When Delhi was the seat of empire of the "Great Mogul," his rule extended beyond the Punjab to Cashmere, Afghanistan, Beluchistan, and Sind, the arms of which countries may properly, therefore, be included in those of our Indian empire. The best artificers of India and Persia were attracted at this period to the court of Delhi, and the finest decorated arms inlaid with gold, silver, and jewels were manufactured in the capital. The far-famed blades imported from Khorassan received Indian mounts, and the influence of Persian art extended over the whole of the north-western frontier of India.

PART I.—PUNJAB.

The *Sikhs*, the latest military power of India which came in contact with our arms, may also claim to have possessed the most perfect military organization. They, of all the Indian races, have most profited by that European training and discipline which they were one of the first to appreciate. Much of their success in arms is due, however, to the half military, half-religious system which was founded by Nának Sháh (1469–1539), and continued by his successors the Gurus. The rise of the Sikh power was owing to Govind, the tenth and last leader or Guru, who, when the Sikhs were persecuted as infidels by Aurungzebe, formed the bands of that sect into a religious and military commonwealth, or Khálsa, animated with undying hatred to the Mahomedans. The Gúrú Govind was murdered, and after his death was venerated as the chief apostle of that religion. The religious element of Sikhism was represented by the "Akálís." They were "the immortals" or soldiers of God, who claimed for themselves to have been instituted by Govind Sing. Instead of practising the inert asceticism of the Hindu sects, they were called upon to leave their homes and devote themselves to the profession of arms, in defence of their faith.

After the death of Aurungzebe, the power of the Sikhs again revived, and although once more almost exterminated under Farrukhsiyar at the beginning of the 18th century, they retained their hold on the country, not only under the weak Mogul Emperors, but also when, after 1748, the Punjab passed under the rule of the vigorous Afghan leader Ahmad Sháh 'Abdali, the conqueror of the Mahrattas in the great battle of Pánipat. They established themselves in petty isolated forts, under the cover of which they gave constant employment to the governors of Lahore and Sirhind

at which their future enterprises are resolved upon, and, according to their importance the co-operation of the whole brotherhood or of one or more divisions called for.

The twelve "misls" were named and constituted as follows:—

1. Bangí	10,000	armed horsemen.
2. Rámgarhí	3,000	do.
3. Ghanaiya or Kanaiya	8,000	do.
4. Nakaiya	2,000	do.
5. Alúwálá	3,000	do.
6. Dalawálá	7,500	do.
7. Nishánwálá or Nisháníya	12,000	do.
8. Faizullapúriya	2,500	do.
9. Krora Singhiya	12,000	do.
10. Shahid and Nihang	2,000	do.
11. Phulkiya and Bhekiya	5,000	do.
12. Sukar Chakiya	2,500	do.
A total of	69,500	do.

Among their prominent leaders at that time, and the founder of the last Misl, was Charat Singh, the grandfather of Ranjit Singh. He was one of the first to build a "garhi" or fort as a storehouse for his booty. When his fortress of Gujráoli (now Gujránwálá) was besieged by the viceroy of Lahore, the Sikh mercenaries who served under him went over to their brethren in the fort, upon which the Mahomedan army took to flight. His son, Mahá Singh, increased the power of the family by taking Jámú from Jai Singh, and in 1798 his grandson, Ranjit Singh, when only 18 years of age, was appointed Governor of Lahore by Zaman Sháh the grandson of Ahmad Sháh.

The rapid rise in the power of the Sikhs was to a great extent due to the adoption by them of improved weapons and methods of warfare. In 1800 they had 40 pieces of field artillery. Cunningham[1] gives the following graphic account of the character of the Sikhs as infantry, and compared with the other fighting races of India:—

"The Rajpoot and Pathan will fight as Pirthee Raee and Jenghiz Khan waged war. They will ride on horses in tumultuous array, and they will wield a sword and spear with individual dexterity; but neither of these cavaliers will deign to stand in regular ranks, and learn, as the Sikhs have learned to handle the musquet of the infantry soldier, although the Mahometan has always been a brave and skilful server of heavy cannon. . .

"The early force of the Sikhs was composed of horsemen, but they seem intuitively to have adopted the new and formidable matchlock of recent times, instead of the ancestral bow and the spear common to every nation. Mr. Forster noticed this

army on the English model, being much impressed by the superiority of the disciplined troops of Mr. Metcalfe's escort against the Akális in a fanatical outbreak of the population of Amritsir. With this view he endeavoured to obtain subalterns from the Company's army to discipline his own. He divided his infantry into battalions of three or four hundred men each; the artillery formed a separate corps under a "Darogha" or Commandant; and the cavalry remained under his own command.[1]

In 1822 Allard and Ventura entered Ranjít Singh's service and disciplined his army. In 1832,[2] Captain Murray states that Ranjít Singh's army numbered 80,905 men, of whom the élite were:—

The French legion, 8,000 men.

The Ghurcharh'as and Ghurcharhkhás, cavalry clad in armour and carrying musquets, 4,000. These were supported[3] by territories which brought them in a revenue of 3,000 or 4,000 rupees a piece; their horses and entire equipments were their own property.

Their uniform consisted of a velvet coat or gaberdine, over which most of them wore a shirt of mail. Others had this shirt made to form part of the tunic. A waist belt richly embroidered in gold, supported the powder horn covered with cloth of gold, as well as the Persian Katár, and the pistols which many of them carried. Some wore a steel helmet inlaid with gold, and surmounted by the "Kalghí" a black heron's plume. Others wore a cap of steel worked like the cuirass in rings. The left arm is often covered from the hand to the elbow, with a steel cuff inlaid with gold. The round Sikh shield hangs at the back, and is fastened by straps across the chest. A quiver at the right side, and a bow slung at the back complete the equipment.

The remaining forces were:—

3. Disciplined battalions, 14,941.
4. Infantry regiments variously equipped, 23,950.
5. Cavalry, 3,000.
6. Sirdars contingents, cavalry, 27,014.
7. Elephants, 101.

Captain Murray calculates the artillery, which was miserably organised and served, except that portion attached to the French legion, as composed of 370 guns and 370 "Jinjáls." Of the whole number probably not 50 would be reckoned serviceable by us.[4]

"Ranjít Singh's force" writes Masson,[5] "consisted of perhaps 20,000 troops trained after "the French or European methods of discipline, and 50,000 Sikhs or Gorkhas. Each "regiment wore a 'pagri' or turban of distinguishing colour."

"The Sikh irregular cavalry," remarks the same writer, "have a peculiar exercise at "which they are very expert. In action they advance upon their enemies until their "matchlocks can take effect, discharge them, and then precipitately retreat to reload and "repeat the same manœuvre."

teeth. They wear, in obedience to their founder, the tenth Guru, Govind, nothing but steel and blue cotton cloth, steel bow, sword, shield, brace of horse pistols or collection

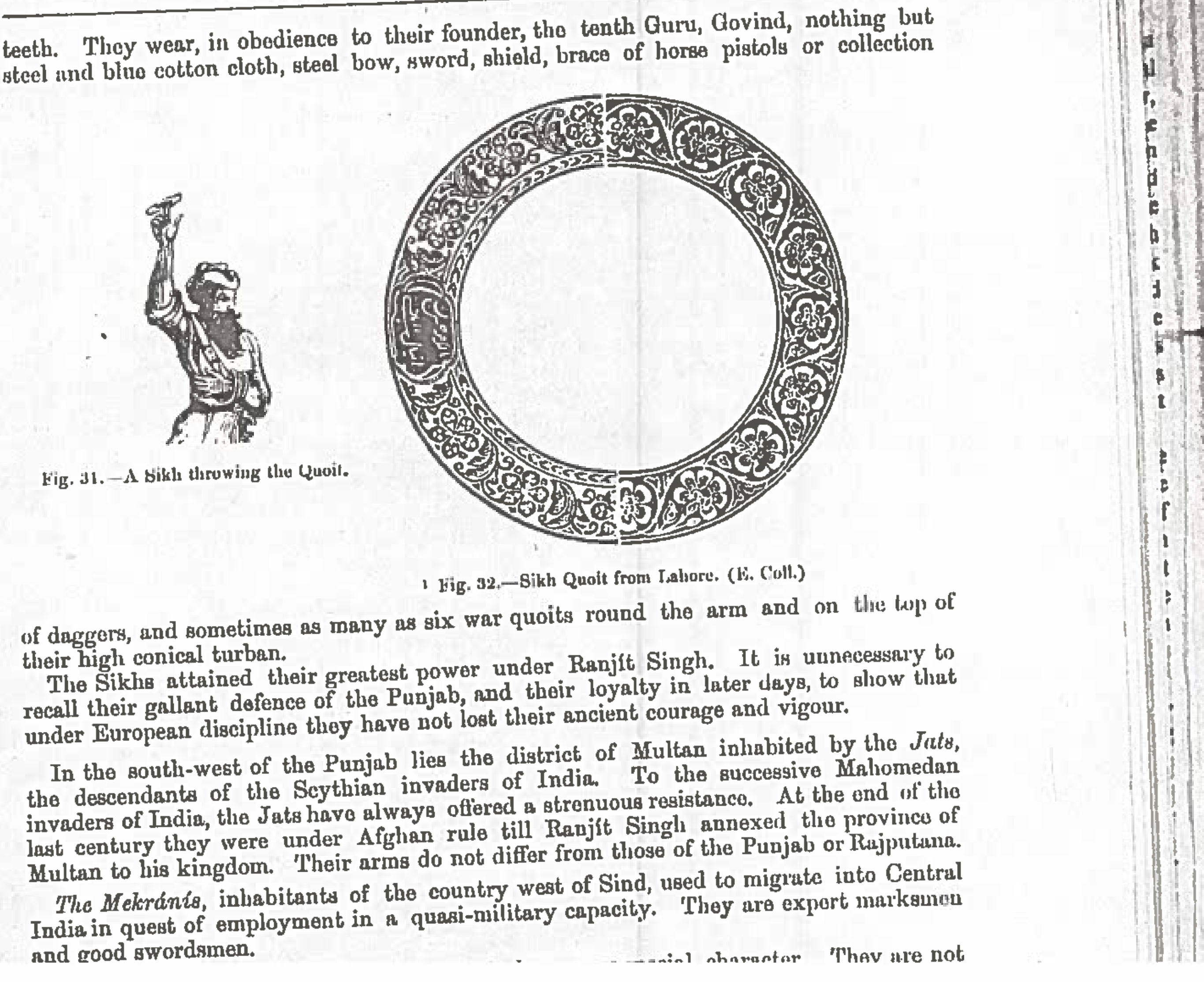


Fig. 31.—A Sikh throwing the Quoit.

Fig. 32.—Sikh Quoit from Lahore. (E. Coll.)

of daggers, and sometimes as many as six war quoits round the arm and on the top of their high conical turban.

The Sikhs attained their greatest power under Ranjít Singh. It is unnecessary to recall their gallant defence of the Punjab, and their loyalty in later days, to show that under European discipline they have not lost their ancient courage and vigour.

In the south-west of the Punjab lies the district of Multan inhabited by the *Jats*, the descendants of the Scythian invaders of India. To the successive Mahomedan invaders of India, the Jats have always offered a strenuous resistance. At the end of the last century they were under Afghan rule till Ranjít Singh annexed the province of Multan to his kingdom. Their arms do not differ from those of the Punjab or Rajputana.

The Mekránís, inhabitants of the country west of Sind, used to migrate into Central India in quest of employment in a quasi-military capacity. They are expert marksmen and good swordsmen.

Plate XIII.

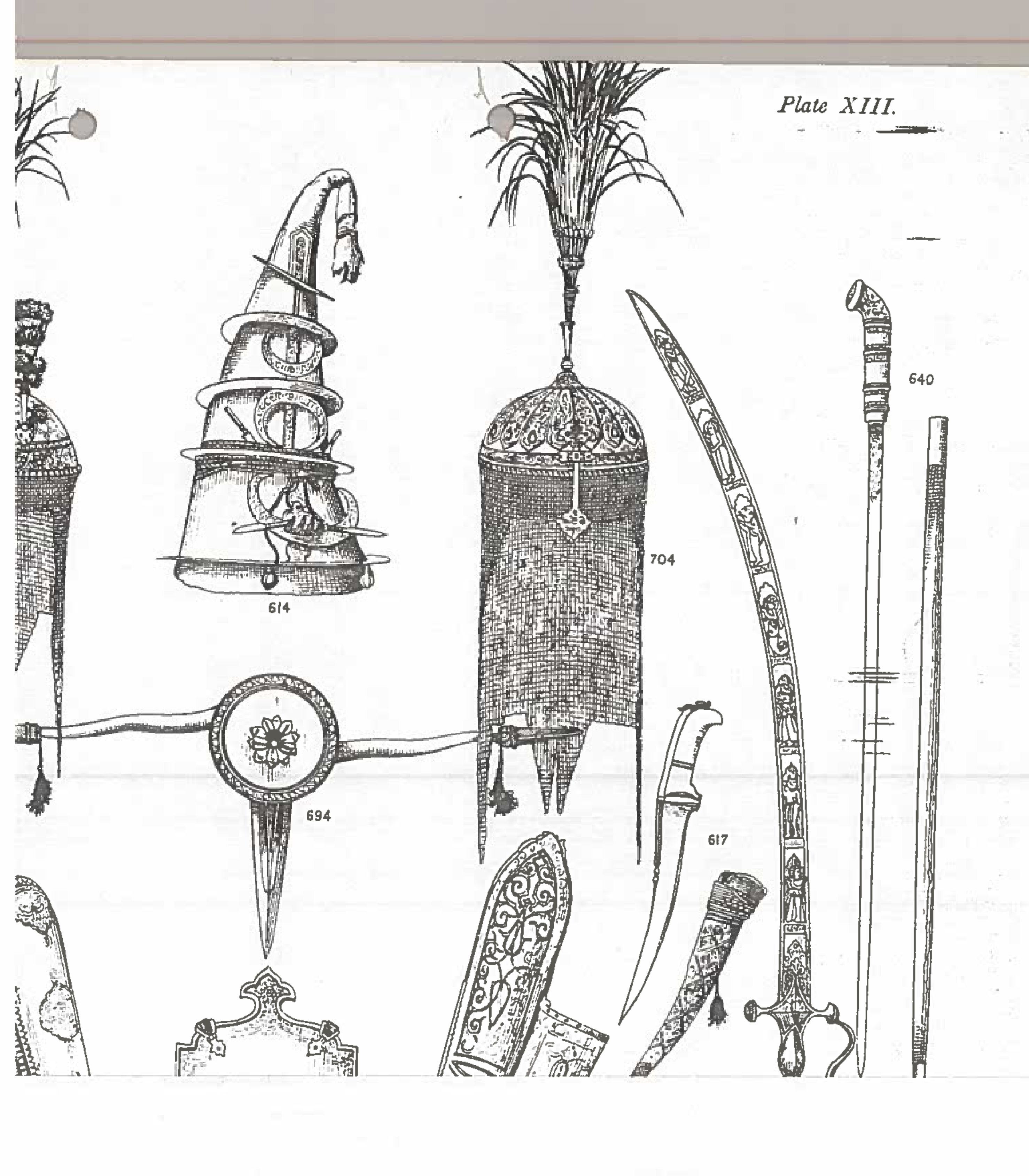
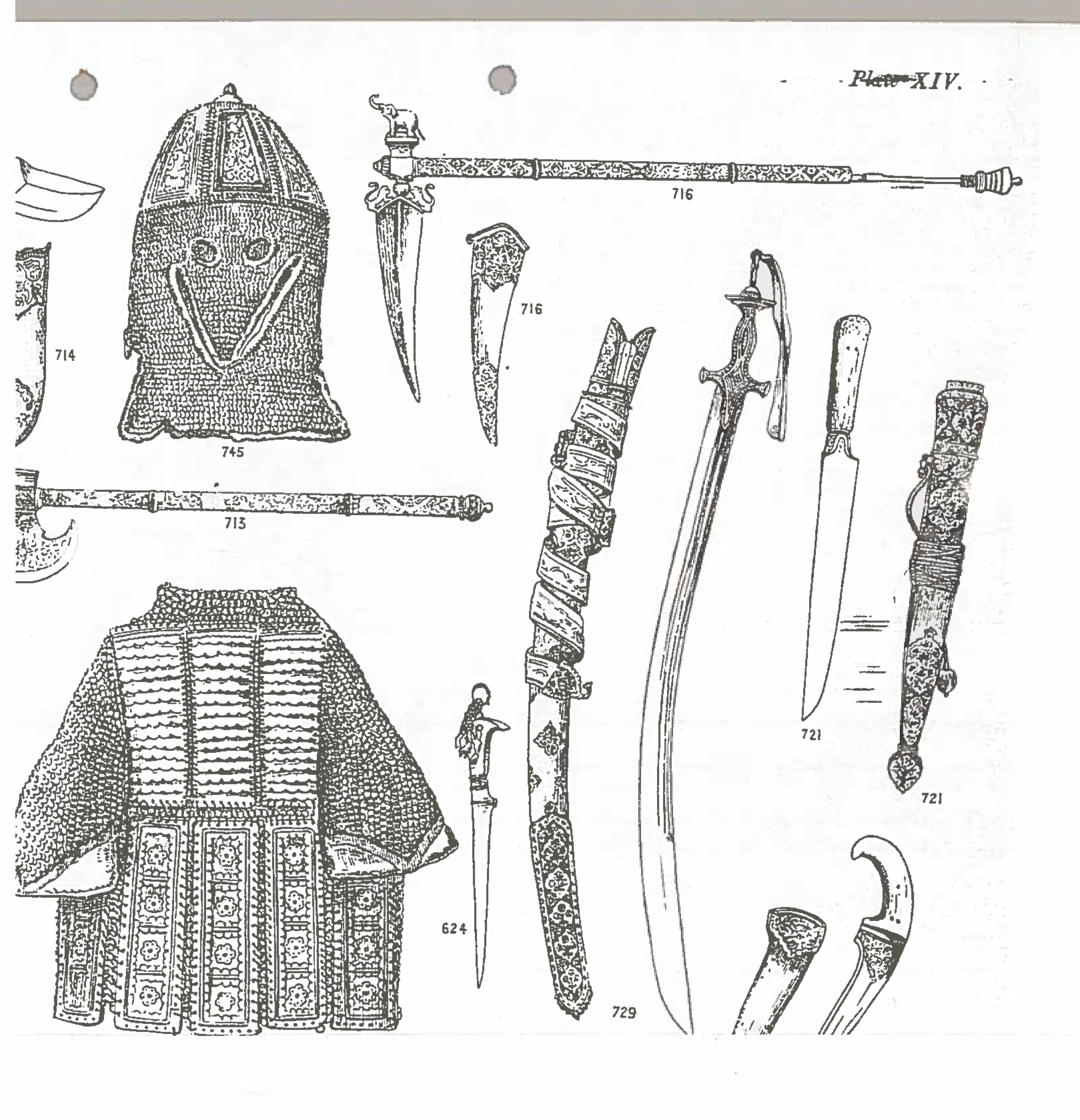


Plate XIV.



NOTE.—*The more ornamental arms will be found in Cases 45 and 69 (the latter fire-arms).*

592.* Bow; "Kamán;" made of prepared horn, lacquered and gilt; strings of spun silk; bow-cover crimson velvet embroidered with gold. *Delhi.* (8589.–'55.)

593.* Bow; "Kamán;" made of horn, lacquered and painted with floral arabesques in gold and colours; silken string. *Lahore.* L. 4 ft. (8594.–'55.)

594. Bow; "Kamán;" curved Parthian shape, probably of buffalo horn, painted and lacquered in red, green, and gold; string of spun silk. *Delhi.* L. 4 ft. (8591.–'55.)

595. Bow; "Kamán;" horn, painted and gilt. *Delhi.* L. 4 ft. (8590.–'55.)

596. Bows; "Kamán;" horn, painted and lacquered. (8850.)

597. Bow; "Kamán," and arrows (12); steel, painted. Presented by Dr. Nicholson. *Cambay.* L. 4 ft. ('62.)

598. Bow; "Kamán;" steel, very elastic, painted with floral arabesques. Taken at *Lucknow.* L. 3 ft. 5 in. (8761.–'70.)

599.* Pellet-Bow; "Gulel;" bamboo, painted in green and gold; ivory mounts; double string. *Lahore.* L. 4 ft. 10 in. (8638.–'55.)

The pellet is held in a small web of silk attached at each end to one of the strings.

600.* Pellet-Bow; "Gulel;" bamboo, ornamented with gilt pines painted on a red ground; double string. *Lahore.* L. 4 ft.

601.* Quivers (2); "Tarkash;" long, cylindrical, covered with crimson velvet; *Lahore.* (8588.–'55.)

602.* Quivers (2) and Arrows; "Tir-o-tarkash;" the quivers of crimson velvet, embroidered on one side with gold. *Lahore.* (8688.–'55; 8587.–'55.)

603.* Arrows; "Tir;" black reed shafts, painted and gilt, and tipped with ivory; flat points of perforated steel-work. *Lahore.* (8772.–'51.)

604.* Arrows; "Tir;" reed shafts, painted and gilt at the feathered ends; various shaped points, with ornamental mounts of steel inlaid with brass and copper. *Lahore.* L. 2 ft. 4 in. (8588.–'55.)

612. Spears, (2) "Neza;" long slender blades; metal mounts. Used by horsemen. *Jind.* L. 9 ft. and 9 ft. 3 in. L.; of head, 21 in. (8863.–'55.)

613. * Quoit Turban; "Dastár Bunggá"; worn by the Akalee Sikhs. The turban is conical in shape, about 20 inches in height, and constructed of indigo-blue cotton cloth twisted round a light sub-structure of cane; encircling it are nine quoits, a tiger claw (wagnuk) and other small weapons, all of steel. *Lahore* Diam. of quoits, 4 in. to 11 in. (8365.–'55.)

614. * Quoit Turban; "Dastár Bunggá;" a conical structure of dark blue cotton cloth, encircled by quoits (5), crescents, small knives and tiger-claws, all of bluish steel damascened with gold. *Lahore.* (Pl. XIII., No. 614.) (8569.–'51.)

615. Quoits; "Chakram;" flat steel rings, of various sizes, sharpened on the outer edge. Used by the Akalee Sikhs. *Punjab.* Presented by Major, afterwards Sir Herbert, Edwards. Diam. 5¼ in. to 11 in. (8601.–'55.)

616. Mace; "Garz;" steel damascened with gold; six-bladed head of bluish steel; shaft sparingly ornamented with gold damascenings. *Lahore.* L. 2 ft. 2 in. (8556.–'55.)

617. * Dagger; "Peshkabz;" curved blade, ribbed, and thickened at the point, and damascened with gold near the hilt; hilt of walrus ivory, and gold-damascened steel. Embossed black leather sheath, silver-mounted. *Peshawur.* (Pl. XIII., No. 617.) (8526.–'55.)

618. * Dagger; "Peshkabz;" blade damascened with gold; ivory hilt; velvet scabbard with gold-damascened steel mounts. *Peshawur.* (8535.–'55.)

619. * Dagger; "Peshkabz;" one-edged pointed blade of Damascus steel; hilt covered with rock crystal beneath which are seen native paintings of mythological subjects; the rivet heads attaching the crystal to the hilt are concealed by rubies. *Lahore.* (8528.–'51.)

620.* Dagger; "Peshkabz;" Damascus blade, ornamented with chiselled and gilt floriations; walrus ivory hilt. *Lahore.* (8540.–'55.)

621.* Dagger; "Peshkabz;" pointed one-edged blade with broad straight back; ivory hilt

625.* Dagger; "Peshkabz;" blade damascened with gold at the hilt; hilt of walrus-ivory and steel damascened with gold; embossed black leather, sheath with silver mounts. *Bijnur.* (7430.-'67.)

626.* Dagger; "Khanjar;" two-edged doubly curved blade of Damascus steel; pistol-hilt of green jade set with diamonds and rubies. *Lahore.* (8525.-'51.)

626.a* Dagger; "Khanjar;" hilt of white jade encrusted with large flat diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, in floral designs. Green velvet sheath with white jade mounts similarly ornamented. Presented by the Marquis of Hastings. (Fig. 13, No. 1.) (8524.-'50.)

627.* Dagger; "Khanjar;" pistol-hilt of mottled jade ornamented with low relief foliated carvings; sheath covered with kincob and mounted with gold. *Lahore.* (8530.-'55.)

628.* Dagger; "Bich'hwá, or Scorpion;" doubly curved small blade of Damascus steel; walrus-ivory hilt; purple velvet sheath. *Punjab.* Presented by Col. Hamilton. (11,497.-'67.)

629.* Dagger; "Kaṭár;" broad Damascus blade ornamented with a foliated central rib chiselled in low relief, and bearing on both sides inscriptions inlaid in gold; the hilt and sideguards are gilt, embossed and delicately chased with running foliated scroll ornaments; green velvet sheath tipped with gold. *Lahore.* L. 17½ in. (8548.-'51.)

630. Dagger; "Kaṭár;" damascus blade of yellow-tinted steel, ribbed, and thicked at the point. Transverse hilt plated with silver. *Lahore.* (8544.-'55.)

631.* Dagger; "Kaṭár;" polished, grooved blade. Hilt and guards damascened with gold ornaments and inscriptions. *Lahore.* (8543.-'51.)

632. Dagger; "Kaṭár;" blade enriched with conventional honey-suckle floriations chiselled in low relief and gilt. *Punjab.* L. 15 in. (11,499.-'71.)

633.* Dagger; "Kaṭár;" narrow, deeply-grooved quadrangular blade. The steel hilt and sideguards completely covered with inscriptions damascened in gold. Crimson velvet ... gold mounts. A Sikh

637.* Dagger; "Kaṭár;" with five blades, which spring open on pressing together the bars of the hilt. Hilt and sideguards damascened with gold. Crimson velvet sheath with gold mounts. *Pattiálá.* (Pl. xiii. No. 637.) (8542.-'51.)

638.* Dagger with Pistols; the dagger is of the ordinary Kaṭár type, the blade enriched with foliated ornaments chiselled in low relief. The side guards are continued into pistol barrels, one on each side of the blade, the triggers lying within the side-guards; the barrels are made to unscrew and may be removed at will. The hilt, sideguards, and pistol-barrels are of gilt steel. *Lahore.* (8549.-'55.)

639. Crutch Dagger; crutch shaped hilt, of carved jade and crystal, short blade; stick sheath. (Pl. xiii. No. 639.) (8519.)

640. Sword-hilt and Scabbard Mounts; steel damascened in gold. *Lahore.* (Pl. xiii. No. 640.) (8605.-'51.)

641.* Sword-stick; "Gupti;" highly burnished rapier blade, enriched with gold damascenings at the hilt. Pistol-hilt of ivory carved with low-relief floriated ornaments, painted and gilt. The stick-sheath is painted with floriated arabesques in gold on a dark blue ground. *Lahore.* L. 2 ft. 11 in. (8557.-'55.)

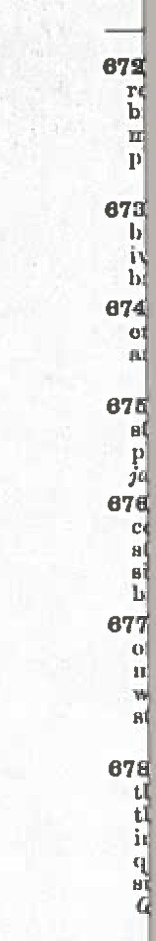
642. Sword-sticks (2); "Gupti;" pistol hilts of wood. (12,613) (12,594.)

643. Gauntlet-sword; "Paṭá;" straight rapier blade; long gauntlet hilt of steel mounted in brass with simple zigzag ornaments and two small fish figures. *Punjab.* (12,531.)

644.* Sabre; "Talwár;" heavy, burnished damascus blade bearing an inscription incised in the steel. Hilt with double handguard for the knuckles and back of the hand, thickly plated with gold. Scabbard of purple velvet. *Lahore.* Presented to the Governor-General of India by the Maharajah Nownehall Sing in Durbar. L. 2 ft. 10 in. (8510.-'50.)

645.* Sabre; "Talwár;" finely watered dark steel, guarded hilt richly damascened in gold. Scabbard covered with gold brocade enriched with massive gold mounts, perforated and embossed. *Lahore.* L. 3 ft. 1 in. (8501.-'55.)

This sword belonged to the late Raja Suchet Singh, by ... presented in Durbar to the Governor-



648.* Sabre; "Talwár;" heavy damascus blade, polished, and fluted. Guarded hilt with low-relief floriations, chiselled and gilt. Scabbard of yellow velvet, with a waistbelt of yellow silk brocaded with silver attached. *Lahore.* L. 3 ft. 1 in. (8506.-'55.)

649. Sabre; "Talwár;" Persian blade of soft steel damascened with gold near the hilt. Guarded hilt of steel. *Punjab.* L. 3 ft. 3 in. (8739.)

650.* Sabre; "Talwár;" burnished blade with waved edge; hilt with knuckle guard of steel damascened with gold; green velvet scabbard. *Lahore.* L. 3 ft. (8507.-'51.)

651.* Sabre; "Talwár;" fine damascus blade, damascened with gold at the hilt and along the back, and bearing an inscription inlaid in gold. The hilt, with triple handguard and globular pommel, is of steel damascened with gold and enriched with rubies, turquoises, and other stones.

652.* Sabre; "Talwár;" each side of the blade is divided into seven compartments filled with representations of the incarnations of Vishnu and other mythological subjects chiselled in low relief and gilt. Beneath each panel is an explanatory inscription damascened in gold. The hilt, with knuckle-guard and broad circular pommel, is similarly ornamented. L. 3 ft. 3 in. *Lahore.* (Pl. xiii. No. 652.) ('55.)

Cf. Musée Z. S., Pl. viii.—"Johur (Jauhar)." The blade is covered with figures in relief damascened in gold; among them an elephant, tigers, antelopes, and a horseman facing a lion. The hilt ornamented with trees, flowers and hunting scenes.

653.* Sabre; "'Abbásí Talwár;" slightly recurved fluted blade of bright steel; hilt, with knuckle-guard and griffin-head pommel, of steel damascened with gold and set with turquoises. Crimson velvet scabbard with gold damascened steel mounts. *Gujerat.* L. 3 ft. 1 in. (Pl. xiii. No. 653.) (8508.-'55.)

654.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" the blade is ornamented on both sides with numerous figures of animals (tigers, antelopes, rabbits, &c.), incised and damascened in gold. Hilt of ivory and damascened steel. Scabbard of embossed black leather, attached to leather waist-belt with damascened steel mounts. *Lahore.* L. 2 ft. 11½ in.

659.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" Khorassan blade; hilt of ivory and gold-damascened steel; scabbard of leather, embossed and perforated. *Peshawur.* L. 3 ft. 6 in. (Pl. xv. No. 659.) (8504.-'55.)

660.* Pistols (a pair); "Tamancha;" octagonal barrels, damascened in gold with flowing open scroll ornaments; side-bar locks; roughened hilts with hollow pommels for storing shot or caps. *Lahore.* (8564.-'55.)

661. Pistols (a pair); "Tamancha;" plain burnished barrels with flint locks. After an English pattern. *Lahore.* L. 17 in. (8562.-'55.)

662. Pistols (a pair); Damascus barrels; chased steel mounts; flint locks. L. 20 in. (12,598.-'69.)

663. Mountain Gun or Wall Piece; "Sher bacha;" rifled Damascus barrel; massive wooden stock provided with steel supports; powder horn and bullet mould attached. Presented by H.H. Gulab Singh. *Lahore.* L. 3 ft. 1 in. (8536.-'55.)

664.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" octagonal barrel of dark-tinted Damascus steel, ornamented with gold damascenings at the mouth and breech; dark wood stock; straight butt, with ivory and silver mounts. *Lahore.* L. 5 ft. 3 in. (8625.-'55.)

665.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" Damascus barrel with gold Damascened ornaments at the mouth and breech; stock strengthened by side-plates of damascened steel; butt straight and slender. *Lahore.* L. 5 ft. 10 in. (7492.-'67.)

666.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" barrel damascened with gold at the muzzle and breech; light wood stock with steel side-plates also damascened. *Lahore.* L. 5 ft. 3 in. (8623.-'55.)

667.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" burnished barrel damascened with gold at the muzzle and breech; teak-wood stock strengthened with side-plates of Damascus steel. *Lahore.* L. 5 ft. 8 in. (8630.-'55.)

668. Matchlock; "Toradár;" fine Damascus barrel, with gold enrichments inlaid at the muzzle and breech; stock very slender, of dark wood curiously painted with hunting

672.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" Damascus barrel with gold damasceenings at the mouth and breech; stock straight and slender, of red wood mounted with ivory, and strengthened by side-plates of chased silver. *Lahore.* L. 5 ft. 8 in. (8628.–'55.)

673. Matchlock; "Toradár;" teak-wood stock; butt straight, and very slender, capped with ivory, and mounted with plates of engraved brass. *Punjab.* L. 5 ft. 6 in. (8624.)

674. Matchlock; the breech inlaid with gold enrichments; stock of dark wood with brass and ivory mounts. *Punjab.* L. 5 ft. 7 in. (12,535.–'69.)

675. Matchlock; inlaid with gold at the breech; stock of dark wood, strengthened by side-plates of steel, and mounted with ivory. *Punjab.* L. 5 ft. 9 in. (12,537.–'69.)

676.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" barrel damascened with silver throughout its entire length; straight slender stock, with side-plates of chased silver, attached to the barrel by three silver bands. *Punjab.* L. 4 ft. 7 in. (12,539.–'69.)

677.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" octagonal barrel of burnished steel, damascened with gold ornaments at the mouth and breech; stock painted with floral arabesques in gold and colours; butt straight and slender. *Delhi.* L. 5 ft. 3 in. (4404.–'55.)

678. Matchlocks (2); "Toradár;" very small, the barrels damascened with silver ornaments throughout their entire length; the stocks are inlaid with ivory in a lozenge diaper of small quatrefoils dotted with red, and braced by side-plates of engraved brass. A lady's gun. *Gujranwala.* L. 2 ft. 9 in. and 3 ft. 1 in. (8558-9.–'55.)

Miniature arms are made not only for women, but also for boys as young as five years old. "Voyage dans l'Inde," p. 174, Prince Soltykoff.
Cf. Sword made by Asad Ullah for a child.—Cat. Z.S. Coll., p. 312.

679.* Matchlock; "Toradár;" barrel of bluish steel enriched with silver damasceenings at the

684.* Matchlock Accoutrements; "Kamr;" powder-flask, pouches, and belt of light brown leather. *Lahore.* (8570.–'55.)

685.* Matchlock Accoutrements; "Kamr." *Lahore.*

686.* Matchlock Accoutrements; "Kamr;" pouches, powder-flask, &c., covered gith velvet richly embroidered with gold. *Hazára.* (8572.–'55.)

687.* Matchlock Accoutrements; "Kamr." *Hazára.* ('55.)

688.* Powder-Flask; made from the shell of the Pearly Nautilus; red silk cords attached. *Lahore.* (8373.–'55).

689.* Powder-Flask; cylindrical; ebony, with ivory and silver mounts.

690. Parrying Shield; "Márú;" consisting of a pair of antelope horns, tipped with small steel points, and united vertically at their butt ends, the point of junction being covered by a small circular and convex hand-guard of steel, ornamented with four bosses and a crescent of perforated steel. *Delhi.* L. of horns, 3 ft.; Diam. of guard, 8 in. (8798.–'55.)

691. Parrying Shield; "Márú;" antelope horns, tipped with steel; hand-guard of steel, enriched with silver mounts. *Delhi.* L. 3 ft. 6 in.; Diam. of guard, 8 in.

692. Parrying Shield; antelope horns, tipped with steel; hand-guard of steel, bossed and damascened with gold. *Punjab.* L. 3 ft. 5 in.; Diam. 7 in.

693. Parrying Shield; "Márú," or "Mádú;" antelope horns, tipped with steel; hand-guard of brass, bearing four bosses and a crescent. *Benares.* L. of horns, 2 ft. 9 in.; diam. of guard, 9 in. (8799.–'55.)

694. Parrying Shield; "Mádú," or "Márú;" black buck horns, tipped with steel damascened with gold; small circular hand-guard of steel damascened with gold and bearing a large

"The moon has reached a pitch which the effort of man's imagination cannot reach."
"There is not a spot in the regions of East and West which an order sent from you does not reach."
"There is not a day when in a thousand ways eloquent poets do not bring you the tribute of their praises."
"There is not a man sufficiently versed in the science of algebra to commemorate all your virtues."—Zarkoe-Selo Catalogue, p. 313.

Shield of Báhádur Shah. This is remarkable, for the inside as well as the outside is damascened in gold. The Suni crescent engraved on it shows it was made for a Mahomedan. It has a long inscription in Hindustani to this effect:—

"You are a Nawab whose power is heavenly, and whose escort is the sun. To Arabia and Persia your power extends. You are the lion of the desert on the field of battle. When Rustam comes, the falcon swims like a fox. God has exalted you; you have conquered the terrestrial globe, and for shame the earth has become the arid soil of Shám (i.e. Syria). Such goodwill has befallen the world that the lion has become as the shepherd, or like the kid. The torch of the sun is above the firmament. Your hand scattering good absorbs the dawn's light. But I ask you, if you are pleased with me, who is in your service, cast a little look upon me from your throne."—p. 327.

696. SHIELD; "Dhál;" of Damascus steel, richly damascened in gold. The ornaments are, at the centre, a conventional representation of the sun surrounded by four bosses; at the circumference, a deep border of floriated scroll-work. The shield bears, in addition, an Arabic inscription inlaid in gold. *Lahore.* Diam. 15 in. (8691.–'55.)

697.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" of bluish steel, chiselled in low relief and damascened with gold. A rosette of floriated ornaments, surrounded by four hemispherical bosses encrusted with diamonds, occupies the centre. The body of the shield is covered with outline arabesques chiselled in low-relief and gilt, while the interlinear spaces are filled in with birds, beasts, and other subjects damascened in gold. *Lahore.* Presented by H.H. the Maharajah Suchet Sing. Diam. 18 in. (8016.–'50.)

698.* SHIELD; "Dhál;" Circular and convex with recurved edge. Of bluish steel damascened with gold. Modern work. Round the centre are grouped four hemispherical, damascened, bosses with perforated edges. The background is covered with a diaper of floral ornaments. Near the centre is fixed a gilt lion or tiger, and on the left of the shield a crescent with perforated margin. *Sialkot, Punjab.* Diam. 18 in. (7361.–'67.)

699. SHIELD; "Dhál;" black buffalo hide, varnished, and ornamented with four bosses of

noseguard flanked by aigrettes of coloured feathers and tinsel. The surface is covered with interlacing arabesques, and the base of the helmet is encircled by a band of boldly-designed floriated scroll work, the ornaments being chiselled in low relief and gilt. The nose guard and porteaigrettes are damascened in the usual manner. Attached is a coif of mail falling in points on the shoulders and composed of brass and copper, the links alternating in the formation of lozenged designs. Depth 4 in. (8585.–'55.)

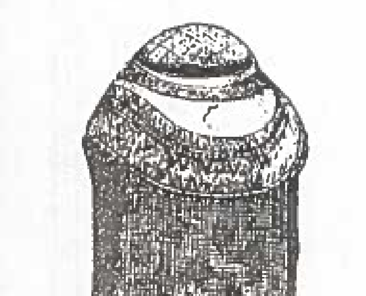
2. The Cuirass is composed of four plates. (Char aina or the four mirrors.) Each plate is covered with open foliated arabesques damascened in gold, enclosed by a diaper border of quatrefoil lozenges, also in gold. L. 11 in. by 7 in., 10 in. by $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. (8576.–'55.)

3. The arm-guards (Pl. xiii. No. 703) of the usual shape are lined with velvet, and terminate in open gauntlets of chain mail, the links (unrivetted) of steel and brass disposed in a lozenge design. Ornamentation similar in character to that of the other parts of the suit.

4. The shield has been described above (No. 695.)

703 A T. HELMET; small, shaped like a Turban with coif of mail; gold-damascened enrichments. *Lahore.* (198.)

Cf. Helmet in the Z. S. Collection (Pl. XIV., Vol. iii.), formed like a low-crowned, broad-brimmed hat, perhaps



704.* Helmet; "Tóp;" hemispherical, of steel covered with gold damascenings. It is furnished with a sliding nose-guard, the extremities of which are set with moonstones, and is surmounted by a plume of heron-feathers springing from a porte-aigrette similarly ornamented; from the latter proceed radiating lines dividing the helmet into raised and fluted segments in each of which is set a pear-shaped moonstone. A long coif of mail descends from the base of the helmet falling in points on the shoulders; in the links of which it is composed, steel, brass, and copper alternate in the formation of a lozenge pattern. *Lahore.* (Pl. xiii. No. 704.) (8584.)

705.* Suit of Chain Mail consisting of a helmet, coat and pair of trousers. *Lahore.* (8599.)

1. The helmet consists of a long coif of unriveted steel mail falling squarely on the shoulders, and surmounted by a large gilt plume holder. A triangular opening is left for the face, but if required this can be closed by a pointed flap attached, when open, to the plume holder.

2 and 3. The coat and trousers are lined with crimson silk, which trimmed with gold braid forms the collar and facings of the coat. The links are riveted, and are of steel alternating at the borders with links of brass in the formation of a lozenged design.

706.* Coat and Trousers of Mail. Presented by the Raja Suchet Sing. *Lahore.*

The coat is composed of extremly fine and light mail covered with green velvet, richly embroidered with gold.

The trousers are made of very large riveted links of steel.

Note.—Cf. with the following examples of chain-armour from the Col. and Z.S. Collections:—

"Tóp." Cap of chain and plates; crescent visor; and chain curtain for breast and back.
"Tóp." Scales and chain to match.
"Tóp." With large plates and chain with crescent visor.
"Tóp." With scales and chains for breast and back.
"Tóp." Zirrah buktur." Made of iron chains, plates and five rows of scales. Vandyke pattern (Grey).
"Zirah baktar." Five rows of scales of scallop pattern.
"Zirah baktar." Reaching to the waist.
"Zirah baktar." Coat worn by officers made of very fine perforated scales; scalloped pattern joined with chains.
"Zirah baktar." Coat of strong chains; two rows plain and one scalloped.
"Zirah baktar." Three rows scalloped, two plain; fine chain.—*Col. Coll.*

Mohammed, Aly, Fatima, Hussain, Hassan" in Arabic. This has therefore been made for a Shiah Mussulman, or follower of Ali. The fastening at the neck is enriched by a heart-shaped pendant of jade encrusted with rubies, and with two hooks in silver gilt, each representing an elephant with eyes of diamonds, the howdahs being of turquoise. Similar pendants hang on each side of the breast.—*Rockstühl Cat. Z. S., Pl.* lxvii. *p.* 255.

Coat and helm of mail, formed of rings of steel and brass not rivetted, so that the two colours form a design, which they say typifies the mixture of the white waters of the Ganges with the yellow waters of the Jumna, the two sacred rivers. It is, therefore, called "Zirah Kortah Sakton."—*Cat. Z. S., Pl.* clxiii.

707. * Cuirass and Arm-guards; steel damascened with gold. *Lahore.* (Pl. xiii. No. 707.) (8578.–'55.)

The Cuirass, in four pieces "Chár áina;" padded and lined with crimson velvet. Each plate is enriched with a broad border, and central cartouche of conventional floriations damascened in gold.

The Arm-guards, lined with velvet, terminating in open gauntlets of brocaded crimson silk.

708. * Helmet and Arm-guards. *Jind.* The helmet, of steel damascened with gold, is hemispherical, surmounted by a damascened plume-holder from which radiate lines connecting it with a festooned band of damascened ornaments at the base. Sliding nose-guard flanked by aigrettes of tinsel and coloured feathers. Coif of mail, falling in points on the shoulders, the links composing it of steel and brass alternating in the formation of transverse zigzag stripes. (8579.)

The Armguards. Steel damascened with gold, and terminating in an open gauntlet of chain-mail, the links composing which are of brass and steel alternately. Padded and lined with velvet. (8582.–'55.)

709. * Coat of Mail; composed of large riveted links, each of which bears an Arabic inscription produced by means of a punch. The links are of steel, with the exception of those at the edges and the ends of the sleeves which are of copper or brass, forming a border two inches in width round the coat. *Punjab.* Presented by Col. S. W. Hamilton. (11,496.–'67.)

Note.—Rockstühl thus describes the dress of a chief of the Mohammedan guard of the Great Mogul (Pl. 91-92.) The steel plates, richly gilt, are worn on a quilted jacket with four flaps which fold down over the legs. The legs are

found such as are mentioned by the writers who visited the courts of the Amírs and saw their splendour.

In the character of their ornament, rather than in their shape, the Sindian arms approach more closely the Persian than the Afghan type. The coloured enamels, the embroidered leather accoutrements, and the chased silver mountings which characterise their swords are of a more decorated style than is usually met with in India.

Postans[1] describes the Sindian arms as being of very superior quality, "particularly the matchlock barrels, which are twisted in the Damascus style. The nobles and chiefs procure many from Persia and Constantinople, but nearly as good can be made in the country. They are overlaid with gold, and very highly finished. The European lock is attached to the Eastern barrel, and our guns and barrels are only prized for this portion of their work. The best of 'Joe Manton' and 'Purdy' guns, of which sufficient to stock a shop have at various times been presented to the Sindian chiefs by the British Government, share this mutilating fate. The Sind matchlock is a heavy, unwieldy arm, the stock much too light for the great weight of the barrel.

"The sword blades are large, curved, very sharp, and well-tempered. The sheath also contains a receptacle for a small knife used for food and other purposes.

"The belts are of leather or cloth, richly embroidered, for which Guzerat has long been famous.[2] Great taste is also displayed in the manufacture of the pouches, &c. attached to the waist.

"Shields are made from rhinoceros hides, richly embossed with brass or silver. They are carried over the shoulder, or worn strapped between them.

"A great part of the treasure of the Amírs consists in the rubies, diamonds, pearls and emeralds with which their daggers, swords, and matchlocks are adorned. One or two Persian goldsmiths are engaged at court in enamelling and damascening, in which arts they have attained great perfection.

"The Amírs have agents in Persia, Turkey, and Palestine for the purchase of swords and gun barrels,[3] and they possess a more valuable collection than is probably to be met with elsewhere. 'I have had in my hand,' says Burnes,[4] 'a plain unornamented blade which had cost them half a lac of rupees. They estimate swords by their age and watering or temper. One presented to me bears the date 1708, and was valued in Scinde at 2,000 rupees. "Another bore the following inscription:—'Of ancient steel and water, I am the produce of Persia. I am light in appearance, but I am heavy against my enemies. When a brave man wields me with his strength a hundred thousand Hindoos will perish by my edge.'" The verse was written by the Amír's Vizier. The armoury also contains swords worn by Shah Abbas the Great, Nadir Shah, and Ahmed Shah Durrání.

The swords are balanced differently from ours. "I have seen one of the young princes," continues Burnes, "with a single stroke cut a large sheep into two pieces.

"The favourites of the Amírs may be distinguished by gold-mounted swords, which are the highest honorary distinctions conferred by the Hyderabad Durbar. It is contrary to the

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Tárikh-i-Sind (M.S., p. 173):—"When they saw the army of the Moghals, they dismounted from their horses, took their turbans from off their heads, and, binding the corners of their mantles or outer-garments to one another, they engaged in battle; for it is the custom of the people of Hind and Sind, whenever they devote themselves to death, to descend from their horses, to make bare their heads and feet, and to bind themselves to each other by their mantles and waistbands."

Again, p. 194:—"The men under Khangár, having set themselves in battle array, dismounted from their horses, locked their shields together, seized their spears in their hands, and bound the corners of their waist-bands."

Sir Henry Elliot[1] remarks that the practice of dismounting previous to coming to close combat is of common observance among many of the border tribes between Sind and Rajputana, and is frequently alluded to in their local histories. Indeed, to the present day, the Sindians are, unlike most Asiatic nations, still somewhat repugnant to fighting on horseback, and pride themselves more on being foot soldiers than cavalry.

KACH.

The arms of Kach bear a general resemblance to those of Sind. Postans describes a Kachi horseman armed with a tulwar or sabre sheathed in an embroidered leather scabbard. The characteristic weapon of Kach, however, is an axe, the head of which springs from an elephant's head in high relief, while the handle is hollow, and conceals a pointed dagger. The peculiar Kachi dagger, which is hung with chains to the belt, and drops into a deep sheath, is probably borrowed from the Turks, with whom, in Egypt, there has been constant intercourse by way of trade, or from the Arab mercenaries who have constantly been in the service of the Rao of Kach.

KÁTHIAWÁR.

The Kattees of Guzerat carry a sword, shield, and spear. The latter is about 8 ft. long, and is made so slender as to break when thrown at the enemy, to whom it thus becomes useless.

Till the establishment of the British supremacy in 1835, no deed or agreement was considered binding unless guaranteed by the mark of the "Kaṭár," and on the failure or breach of a contract they inflicted "trágá," on themselves, (*i.e.*, committed suicide) or, in extreme cases, carried out the murder of relations with that weapon. The Bards of Guzerat were hereditary heralds, and guardians of "trágá." They seldom appeared without the Kaṭár, a representation of which was scrawled beside their signatures, and rudely engraved on their monumental stones.[2]

"Trágá," as generally performed, extends no farther than a cut with the "Kaṭár" in the arm, and those people who are in the habit of becoming security generally have such cuts from the elbow downwards.

The majority of these arms will be found in Cases 49 (right half) and 67 (fire-arms).

... 711–712. BATTLE AXES: "Tabar" crescent-shaped

714. BATTLE AXE; broad, somewhat knife-shaped blade, parcel-gilt and chased, springing from a gilt and jewelled elephant's head which terminates one end of the shaft. The latter finely engraved and parcel-gilt, is hollow and contains a small dagger attached to the pommel which is moveable. Crimson velvet sheath with embossed gold mounts. *Bhúj, Kach.* L. 26 in.; L. of blade, 8¾ in. (Pl. xiv. No. 714.) (7411.)

715.* BATTLE AXE; knife-like blade springing from an elephant-head, gilt and chased, which terminates the shaft. The latter is parcel-gilt and chased, and encloses a dagger as in preceding examples. *Kach.* L. 2 ft. 4 in. (8645.–'51.)

716. CROW-BILL; "Hoolurge;" curved spear-point blade, ribbed, thickened at the point, and ornamented at its base with two small lion figures in low-relief, gilt, and chased. As in the preceding specimen, the blade starts at right angles from the shaft, which on the opposite side bears the figure of an elephant with raised trunk, also gilt and chased. The shaft is covered with a diaper of chased and gilt ornaments, and encloses a dagger unscrewing at the butt end. Velvet sheath (for the blade) with embossed and chased mounts of ruddy gold. (Pl. xiv. No. 716.) (7419A.)

717.* DAGGER; "Peshkabz;" slightly recurved blade with thickened point, of yellowish Damascus steel. Walrus ivory hilt, with gold-damascened steel mounts. Sheath covered with shagreen similarly mounted. Presented by H.H. the Nawab of *Bhawalpur.* (Pl. xiv. No. 717.) (8527.–'55.)

Cf. with this example, the following from the Z.S. Collection. "Zirah-bhonk" ("mail-piercer;") knife of fine Damascus steel, short with a conical point. It is used for piercing through the rings of a coat of mail. One of these knifes is hollowed out along the back, and the groove filled with small pearls which run backwards and forwards in handling the weapon. It is said in Persian poetry that they represent the tears of the wounded.

In a dagger of the Soltykoff Collection, there is a groove in the blade filled with a number of small rubies, so that when the dagger is raised the stones glitter like drops of blood. India is perhaps of all countries that which has endowed cruelty with the utmost grace. —"Chefs d'œuvres of Industrial Arts. Burty, p. 254."

The handle of these knives is usually of walrus-tooth ivory which is preferred to that of the elephant as being less likely to split. One of them has engraved on the handle in Persian letters; "If thus is accepted what "glory and what honour!" It has probably been made by some armourer for presentation to some sovereign. ...

[72]1.* DAGGER; "Peshkabz;" watered blade of dark steel. Hilt of walrus ivory. Leather sheath embroidered with silk, and enriched with enamelled silver mounts in blue and green. *Sind.* L. 18 in. (Pl. xiv. No. 721.) (8702.)

722.* DAGGER; "Peshkabz;" hilt of walrus ivory with enamelled gold enrichments at the sides. Sheath of leather with enamel mounts of turquoise and dark blue on gold. *Sind.* (Pl. xiv. No. 722.) (–'55.)

723.* DAGGER; "Peshkabz;" yellow-tinted blade damascened with gold near the hilt. The latter of steel ornamented with gold damascening, is hollow and contains a penknife, toothpick, and other small articles. *Guzerat.* (8523.–'55.)

724.* DAGGER; "Peshkabz;" blade damascened with gold near the hilt. Buffalo horn hilt. Crimson velvet sheath with gold damascened steel mounts. *Guzerat.* (8529.–'55.)

725.* HUNTING KNIFE; broad straight blade with an inscription inlaid in gold on the back. Guarded hilt of ivory and black buffalo-horn with gold damascened steel mounts. Crimson, velvet sheath, silver mounted. *Khairpur, Sind.* (7450.–'67.)

726.* HUNTING DAGGER; bright steel blade, the back bearing inscriptions inlaid in gold. Hilt of ivory and horn. Velvet sheath with silver mounts. *Khairpur, Sind.* (7450.–'67.)

727.* DAGGER; "Garsoee Katár;" bright steel blade with a perforated and gilt central rib. Hilt chased and gilt; curved sideguards. Velvet sheath with embossed and gilt mounts. *Bhúj, Kach.* (Pl. xiv. No. 727.) (7413.–'67.)

728.* SABRE; "Talwár;" Fine Khorassan watered blade. Hilt thickly plated with gold, embossed and chased. Velvet scabbard attached to a silk embroidered leather belt, both enriched with medallions and plaques of enamelled gold; the designs consist of flowers and birds in raised enamels. Attached in a pocket sheath at the side of the scabbard, is a small knife with walrus-ivory hilt. *Haidarabad, Sind.* L. 3 ft. 2 in. (8690.–'55.)

729.* SABRE; "Talwár;" polished fluted blade. Hilt plated with gold. Scabbard of leather embroidered with silk, and enriched with blue and green enamelled silver mounts. Waist belt similarly ornamented. A small knife with ...

733.* Flint-Lock Gun; "Bandúq Jauhardár;" Damascus barrel of splendid workmanship, with gold enrichments damascened at the mouth and breech, the latter inlaid also with Arabic inscriptions; ebony stock, attached to the barrel by four bands of enamelled gold; butt of the curved Afghan shape, inlaid with medallions and plaques of translucent enamels on gold. *Haidarabad, Sind.* L. 5 ft. 5 in. (Pl. iv. No. 733.) (8674.–'55.)

734.* Flint-Lock Gun; "Bandúq Jauhardár;" finely-worked Damascus barrel, with massive gold enrichments at the mouth and breech. Near the latter is an inscription inlaid in gold. Stock of dark wood, curved and very broad at the butt (Afghan shape), inlaid and mounted with plaques of translucent blue and green enamel on silver, and attached to the barrel by four narrow bands of the same. *Haidarabad, Sind.* (8675.–'55.)

735.* Gun Accoutrements; "Kamr;" consisting of a silk-embroidered leathern belt, to which are attached bullet-boxes (2), wad-box, powder horn and priming horn of leather and steel enriched with blue and green enamelled silver mounts. *Haidarabad, Sind.* (8686.)

736.* Rifle; "Bandúq Jauhardár;" Damascus barrel of exquisite workmanship (small bore), damascened with gold at the breech and mouth; tiger-head muzzle set with rubies and emeralds; flint lock; broad, curved butt (Afghan shape) of ebony inlaid with medallions and plaques of gold enamelled in low-relief with flower forms (iris, rose, &c.); stock attached to the barrel by three bands of enamelled gold. Presented by H.H. the Nawab of *Bhawalpur.* L. 4 ft. 10 in. (Pl. iv. No. 736.) (8619.–'55.)

737.* Rifle Accoutrements; "Kamr;" consisting of a powder-flask, patch-box of steel damascened in gold with inscriptions, a priming horn, and various black leather pouches embroidered with silk, all attached to a white cotton kummerbund embroidered with gold. *Bhawalpur.* Presented by the Nawab of Bhawalpur. (8571.–'55.)

738.* Flint-Lock Gun; "Bandúq Jauhardár;" ... inlaid and plated with gold

740.* Shield; "Dhál;" circular and convex; papier-mâché, lacquered and gilt. The body of the shield is blue, with a floral diaper; this is surrounded by a painted border of gold, green, and red on a white ground. The centre is occupied by a rosette of similar character, surrounded by four conical brass bosses. *Ahmedabad.* Diam. 15½ in. (7381.)

741.* Shield; "Dhál;" papier-mâché, lacquered and gilt. The body of the shield is a foliated diaper in dark red, surrounded by a border of gold, red, and green, on white. The centre is occupied by a rosette of similar character enclosed by four conical bosses of brass. *Ahmedabad.* Diam. 21 in. (7382.–'67.)

742.* Shield; "Dhál;" circular and convex, with recurved edge; prepared rhinoceros-hide, translucent and of a light brown tint. The centre is occupied by a rosette painted in white, gold, green, and red, surrounded by four large copper-gilt bosses, repoussé, chased and jewelled. A fifth boss of different shape ornaments the upper part of the shield, which is encircled by a narrow border similar in character to the rosette at the centre. *Bhúj, Kach.* Diam. 21 in. (Pl. xv. No. 742.) (7380.–'67).

743.* Shield; "Dhál;" prepared rhinoceros-hide, semi-translucent, with dark red diaper ground. The centre is occupied by a closely-foliated rosette painted in gold, surrounded by four ornamental gilt bosses. The outer border is of similar character, on a white ground. Diam. 21 in. (8615.)

744.* Shield; "Dhál;" circular and convex, with recurved edge; of prepared deer-skin, translucent and of a yellowish-brown tint. The centre is occupied by a rosette painted in gold, surrounded by four gilt bosses with perforated margins, and a crescent. A border, similar in character to the rosette, surrounds the shield. *Bhúj, Kach.* Diam. 21 in. (8622.–'55).

745. Suit of Chain and Plate Armour; comprising a helmet, corslet, trousers, arm-guards, and shoes. *Bhúj, Kach.* (Pl. xiv. No. 745.) (8611.–'55.)

1. The helmet is composed of padded chain mail strength;

GROUP XI.

N.W. FRONTIER, AFGHANISTAN, PERSIA, CHINA, ETC.

Afghanistan.—The Afghans are divided into a number of tribes, who live in constant feuds with one another, among which the Durránís have gained a predominance over the rest. Their history in the present century is made up of a series of revolutions. They are Mahomedans, and with the exception of some Persian colonists, as Kazilbáshís, belong to the Suni persuasion, and are, therefore, bitterly opposed to the Persians as Shiahs. They have a common origin with the Pat'háns, found all over India, who are of Afghan descent, and serve as mercenaries with the Mahomedan princes of India.[1]

The Rohillas, who showed themselves to be sturdy combatants in our campaign against them, are descended from an Afghan colony settled in Upper India.

Elphinstone, in his admirable account of his embassy to Cabul, gives the following description of the arms of some of the tribes at the beginning of the century :—

" The *Ghilzais, Turis, Shinwaris, and Momunds* dwell in Cabul. They wear a curved sabre of the Persian shape, without guard to the hilt, called 'shumsheer,' a long knife in the girdle, a spear, and matchlock. For defensive armour some wear quilted jackets, some plate armour or chain mail, others leathern cuirasses. Indian steel is most prized as the material for swords, but the best swords come from Persia and Syria. The Persian short dagger with thick handle is common. Also one about 14 inches long, tapering to a point, with a round handle. When drawn it is of the shape of a small English carving knife."[2]

The *Hazáras* are good archers as well as good shots. They use a kettle drum to call their troops together.

The arms of the *Durránis*, who inhabit Kandahar and Herat, consist generally of a Persian sword and a matchlock; a few among them have firelocks. The villagers carry matchlocks with curved stocks; their ammunition is strapped in cartridge cases across the left breast. Pistols[3] are rarely met with except in the possession of the chiefs. A few of the best men have spears, which they put in the rest when they are about to charge. Shields were formerly in use among them, but are now discontinued.

The Durránis never serve as infantry.[4] Moorcroft, in 1824, described their cavalry as consisting of 1,200 horse. "They moved in three bodies, travelling generally at a " quick walk of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour. Their baggage was carried on mules or gallo-" ways, and their servants rode on the top of the load. The troopers were variously " mounted, most of them riding strong active horses. Some were armed with swords and " spear heads without shafts; others carried bad pistols stuck in their 'kummerbunds' " (waist cloths); others, again, carried matchlocks, with the 'limak' or crooked stock, or " flint locks. The cannon were about four or five-pounders, tolerably well cast, but

The infantry have generally a sword, a shield, and a matchlock with a rest. Those of the Kohistan of Kabul carry a firelock, pistol, and a short dagger, but no sword. The Ghilzais, the Khyberies, and some other tribes use a knife about 3 feet long (No. 749), which drops into a large sheath and hangs on the thigh. They are made at Jellalabad. Two in the author's collection are decorated near the hilt with gold and silver arabesques, in the Persian style. The handles of these are of walrus tooth. These arms are, no doubt, still generally worn, but the regular regiments, drilled after European fashion by the Amír, have recently been furnished with European arms.

Elphinstone describes[1] a fight between two Afghan tribes, the Bábúzai and Nekpíkhail:

"Both sides had some horse and some hundred Jailumees (champions distinguished by a fantastic dress, and bound to conquer or die). The rest were a mob, some in thick quilted jackets, some in coats of mail, and others in leathern cuirasses, all armed either with bows or matchlocks, and with swords, shields, long Afghan knives, and iron spears.

"When the armies came in sight they at first fired on each other; afterwards the Jailumees turned out and engaged with the sword; and at the last the main bodies came into close combat.

"The brave men on each side were mixed together, and fought hand to hand. The cowards, who were by much the greater number, hung back on both sides, but joined in the general clamour. Every man shouted and reviled his adversaries with as loud a voice as he could."

The wild races on the N.W. Frontier *Afrídís, Wazírís and Mahsúds*, &c., who are subdivided into various clans, use the same arms, and fight with great gallantry in their almost inaccessible country. Their matchlocks were, till the introduction of the rifled weapons, much superior to our old "brown bess," and carried up to 800 yards with accuracy.

Kashmír is still famous for the manufacture of sword and gun barrels. Pistols are made in admirable imitation of European work. The Kashmiri swords are frequently ornamented with incised figures in relief of men and animals, and the outline heightened with gold. The Kashmíris are of no account as soldiers.

The *Siaposh Kafirs* are probably a race who have resisted conversion to Mahommedanism, and in blood allied to the people of Chitrál and Dardistán. Their arms exhibited in the India Museum, by Dr. Leitner, consist of bows and arrows.[2]

Persia. Persian arms were generally worn by the upper classes in India, and the blades of swords were often Persian, even though mounted in India. In fact as Persian artificers were frequently employed at the principal native courts, it is difficult sometimes to say whether a piece of armour is Persian or Indian. The coats of mail and armour are now no longer worn in that country, except to add to the pageant of their religious processions held annually in the month of Muharram to commemorate the death of Hassan and Hussain, the Shiah martyrs. Many that are of modern manufacture have [illegible] and betray in their style the decline of the art.

senting the costume and arms of the Persians in the 17th century. The Khorassan sword appears to be worn on the left and the dagger on the right side. Maces, both pear-shaped and in the shape of a cow's head, and bows and arrows rather than guns are used. The combatants generally wear conical helmets with solid guards over the neck and ears. The horses as well as their riders have a complete covering of plate mail with alternate rows of gold and silver scales. There is in the British Museum a helmet with vambraces, which belonged to Shah 'Abbás, and is inscribed with his name, and which is of splendid workmanship, with floral ornaments chiselled in relief out of the steel. Of the same character and finish of detail is a set of "chár áína" or breast plates which are only equalled by a set at Windsor. (Fig. 34.) Some fine arms have been presented by the Shahs to the Emperors of Russia.[1]

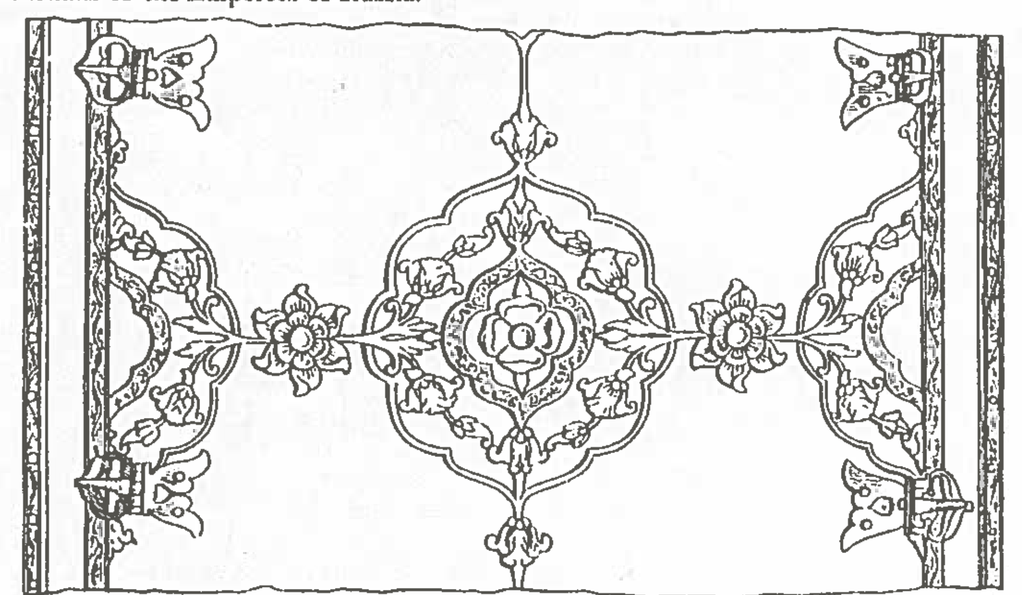


Fig. 34.—Centre of Persian Breastplate at Windsor.

In a coloured native drawing in the author's possession, Nádir Sháh is represented seated on the ground with his sword lying before him; the hilt of the sword is pistol-shaped and encrusted with large rubies and emeralds. From the time of Nádir Sháh or the middle of the last century the work becomes gradually more florid, and quotations from the Koran or verses of Sa'dí are more liberally distributed over the work in geometrical cartouches.

The blades of later Persian dress swords are covered with ornament. One of about

The Persian dagger has usually a fiddle-shaped hilt and stiletto blade, though sometimes the hilt is long and narrow. Ivory, enamel, and chiselled steel are the usual materials of which the hilts are composed. The blades are generally engraved and inlaid near the hilt with floral patterns in gold. In the Caucasus on the Circassian frontier a straight dagger or short double-edged sword, "qáma," is commonly used.

The javelins in this group are carried in sheaths which hold two or three. The spear heads are long and thin. They are frequently for ornamental purposes made with two or three prongs, and generally have a slighter shaft, and lighter appearance than the Indian.

The *Abyssinian* and *Arab* arms deserve mention, as they were introduced by the mercenaries who have been mentioned as serving in some of the courts of Southern India. The curved dagger of the Arabs, the Jambiya, has long been naturalized in Central India.

The Abyssinians have long held a footing in the country. An Abyssinian Sídí held jaghírs from the Kings of Bíjapur, and was Admiral of the Mahomedan fleet. For many years the Sídís[1] stood sieges against the Mahrattas in their stronghold of Janjíra. In 1733 the Abyssinian (Habshi) Sídí signed an offensive and defensive treaty with the Government of Bombay, and ever since his successors have in their piracies spared British ships. The present representative of that race and dynasty is the Nawab of Janjíra.

In *China* until the introduction of European arms, the native weapons do not seem to have much changed from the earliest times. The Chinese commonly use the straight sword, which resembles the Tibetan, the spear, and bows and arrows. Their casques are of Mongolian type.[2]

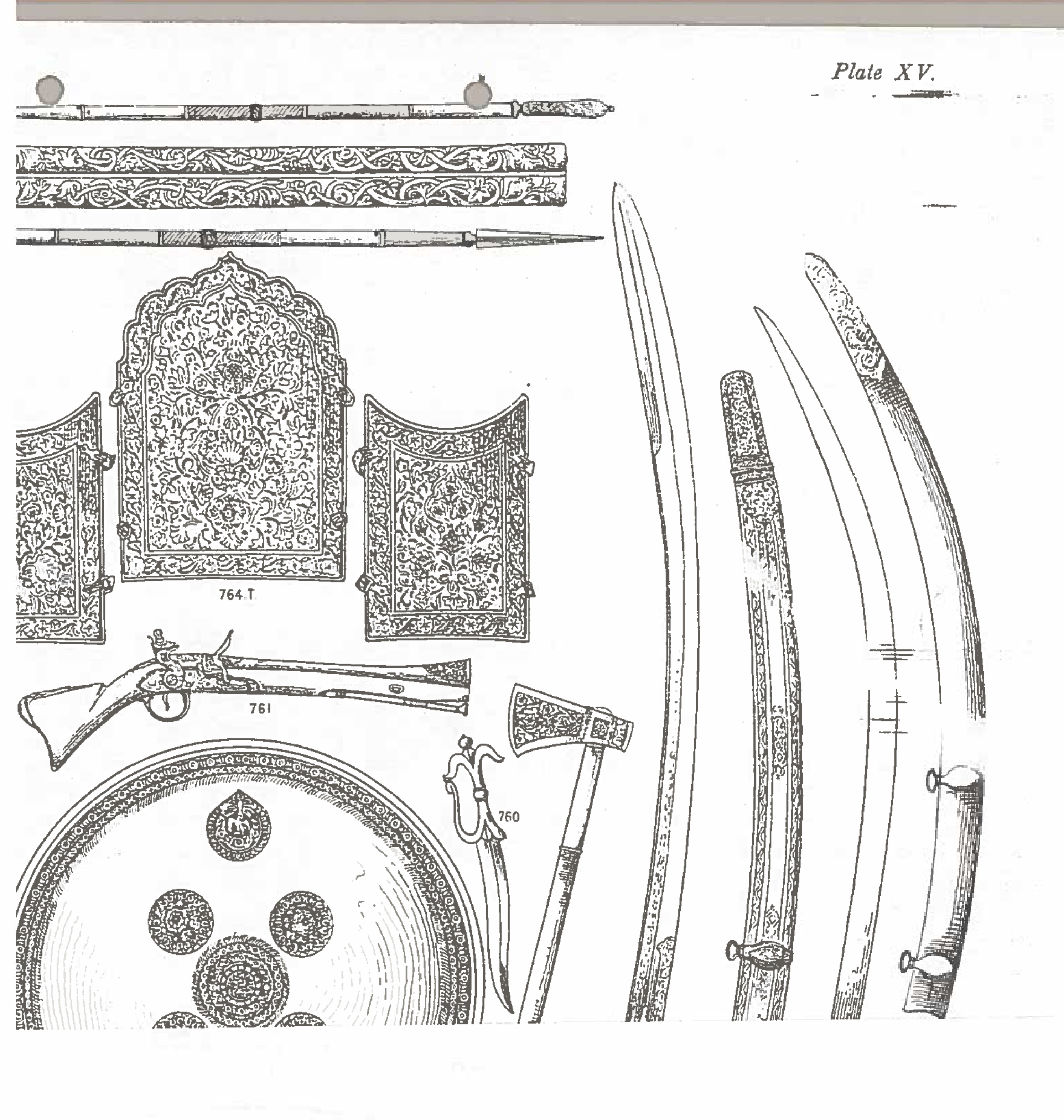
The manufacture of iron is carried on in China by rude processes which are described as similar to the Catalan process known in the Pyrenees. Their steel is made by placing the raw iron and the pig iron in bands together in a brick furnace between two layers of burning coal. When it is molten it is well hammered several times. They also harden steel by dipping it when red hot in oil.[3]

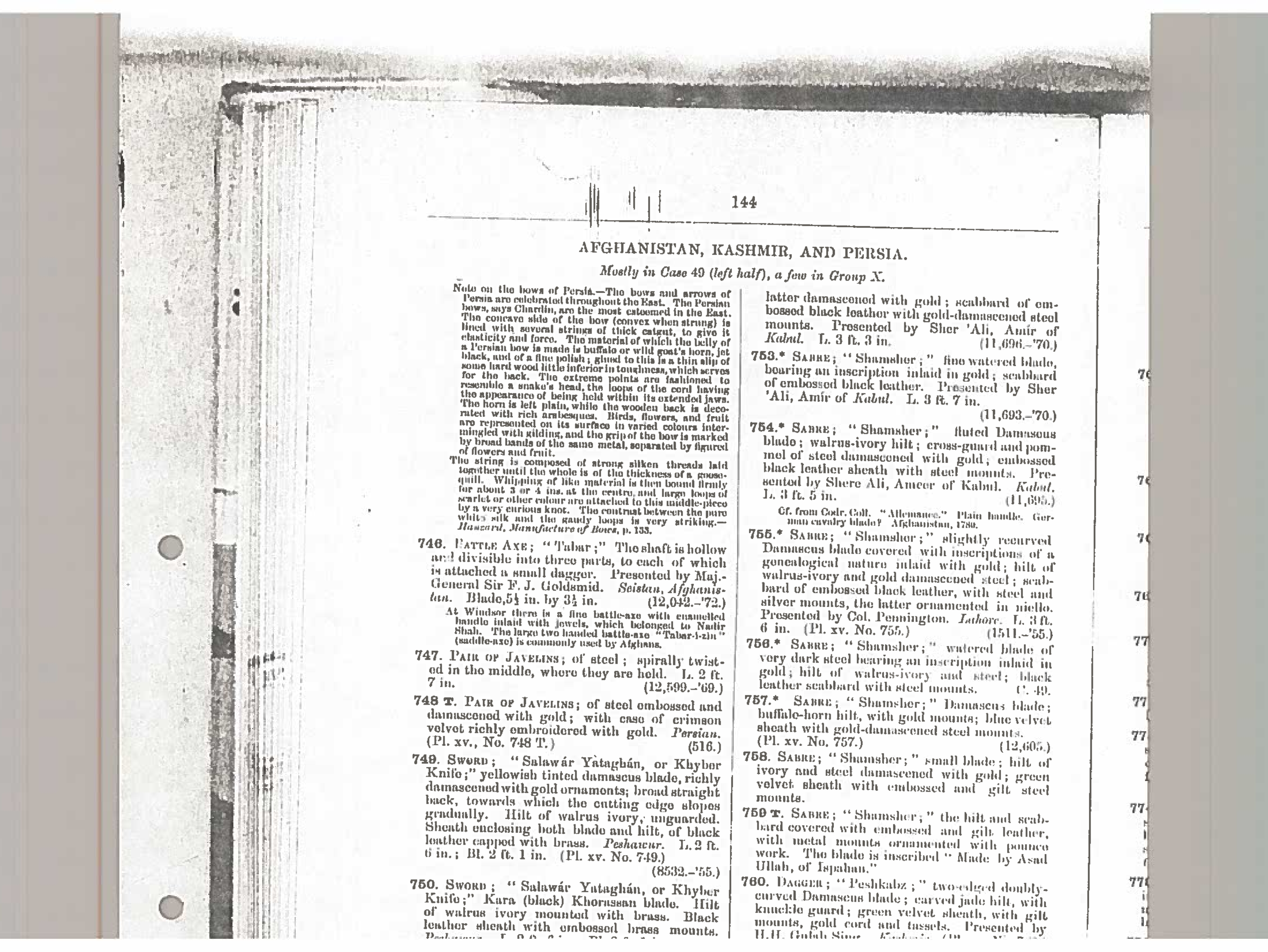
The *Japanese* arms differ entirely from the Indian, but resemble the Burmese in the shape of their swords, though they are far superior in quality. The Japanese derived from China the Buddhist religion, and with it probably the grotesque forms which characterise some of their helmets, such as those surmounted by a dragon or other crest.

Many of their swords are of great antiquity and much prized when the work of celebrated makers such as Ama Kumi and Shin Soku. The former dates from about A.D. 700. They are handed down as heirlooms in families, and are acquired with difficulty.

In the catalogue of the collection belonging to Mr. W. J. Alt, exhibited in the Bethnal Green Museum, 1876, a full description is given of the different weapons, sword, spear, and bows and arrows used by them. In their ornament the extensive use of lacquer, ... They are

Plate XV.





AFGHANISTAN, KASHMIR, AND PERSIA.

Mostly in Case 49 (left half), a few in Group X.

Note on the bows of Persia.—The bows and arrows of Persia are celebrated throughout the East. The Persian bows, says Chardin, are the most esteemed in the East. The concave side of the bow (convex when strung) is lined with several strings of thick catgut, to give it elasticity and force. The material of which the belly of a Persian bow is made is buffalo or wild goat's horn, jet black, and of a fine polish; glued to this is a thin slip of some hard wood little inferior in toughness, which serves for the back. The extreme points are fashioned to resemble a snake's head, the loops of the cord having the appearance of being held within its extended jaws. The horn is left plain, while the wooden back is decorated with rich arabesques. Birds, flowers, and fruit are represented on its surface in varied colours intermingled with gilding, and the grip of the bow is marked by broad bands of the same metal, separated by figured of flowers and fruit.

The string is composed of strong silken threads laid together until the whole is of the thickness of a goose-quill. Whipping of like material is then bound firmly for about 3 or 4 ins. at the centre, and large loops of scarlet or other colour are attached to this middle-piece by a very curious knot. The contrast between the pure white silk and the gaudy loops is very striking.—*Hansard, Manufacture of Bows*, p. 133.

746. Battle Axe; "Tabar;" The shaft is hollow and divisible into three parts, to each of which is attached a small dagger. Presented by Maj.-General Sir F. J. Goldsmid. *Seistan, Afghanistan.* Blade, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. (12,042.–'72.)

At Windsor there is a fine battle-axe with enamelled handle inlaid with jewels, which belonged to Nadir Shah. The large two handed battle-axe "Tabar-i-zin" (saddle-axe) is commonly used by Afghans.

747. Pair of Javelins; of steel; spirally twisted in the middle, where they are held. L. 2 ft. 7 in. (12,599.–'69.)

748 T. Pair of Javelins; of steel embossed and damascened with gold; with case of crimson velvet richly embroidered with gold. *Persian.* (Pl. xv., No. 748 T.) (516.)

749. Sword; "Salawár Yataghán, or Khyber Knife;" yellowish tinted damascus blade, richly damascened with gold ornaments; broad straight back, towards which the cutting edge slopes gradually. Hilt of walrus ivory, unguarded. Sheath enclosing both blade and hilt, of black leather capped with brass. *Peshawur.* L. 2 ft. 6 in.; Bl. 2 ft. 1 in. (Pl. xv. No. 749.) (8532.–'55.)

750. Sword; "Salawár Yataghán, or Khyber Knife;" Kara (black) Khorassan blade. Hilt of walrus ivory mounted with brass. Black leather sheath with embossed brass mounts.

latter damascened with gold; scabbard of embossed black leather with gold-damascened steel mounts. Presented by Sher 'Ali, Amír of *Kabul.* L. 3 ft. 3 in. (11,696.–'70.)

753.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" fine watered blade, bearing an inscription inlaid in gold; scabbard of embossed black leather. Presented by Sher 'Ali, Amír of *Kabul.* L. 3 ft. 7 in. (11,693.–'70.)

754.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" fluted Damascus blade; walrus-ivory hilt; cross-guard and pommel of steel damascened with gold; embossed black leather sheath with steel mounts. Presented by Shere Ali, Ameer of Kabul. *Kabul.* L. 3 ft. 5 in. (11,695.)

Cf. from Codr. Coll. "Allemance." Plain handle. German cavalry blade? Afghanistan, 1780.

755.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" slightly recurved Damascus blade covered with inscriptions of a genealogical nature inlaid with gold; hilt of walrus-ivory and gold damascened steel; scabbard of embossed black leather, with steel and silver mounts, the latter ornamented in niello. Presented by Col. Pennington. *Lahore.* L. 3 ft. 6 in. (Pl. xv. No. 755.) (1511.–'55.)

756.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" watered blade of very dark steel bearing an inscription inlaid in gold; hilt of walrus-ivory and steel; black leather scabbard with steel mounts. C. 49.

757.* Sabre; "Shamsher;" Damascus blade; buffalo-horn hilt, with gold mounts; blue velvet sheath with gold-damascened steel mounts. (Pl. xv. No. 757.) (12,605.)

758. Sabre; "Shamsher;" small blade; hilt of ivory and steel damascened with gold; green velvet sheath with embossed and gilt steel mounts.

759 T. Sabre; "Shamsher;" the hilt and scabbard covered with embossed and gilt leather, with metal mounts ornamented with pounce work. The blade is inscribed "Made by Asad Ullah, of Ispahan."

760. Dagger; "Peshkabz;" two-edged doubly-curved Damascus blade; carved jade hilt, with knuckle guard; green velvet sheath, with gilt mounts, gold cord and tassels. Presented by H.H. Gulab Sing.

gilt. One of the plates is inscribed in Persian, "The noble Ghulám 'Alí Khán. Made by the "humble Mohammed 'Ali of Ispahan, in the "month of Shábán in the year 1213 (Hegira)." *Persia.* (Pl. xv. No. 764 T.) (506-9.)

Cf. Cuirass in S. K. Museum, with diagonal chevron pattern, alternately floriated, and plain damascene work; also plate armour formed of six pieces hinged together to fit the body more exactly.

765. Coat and Trousers of Mail. Presented by the Maharajah Nuonihál Sing. *Lahore.*

The coat is composed of very fine mail, covered with gold-brocaded green silk (Kincob). (8597.-'50.)

The trousers are of riveted steel links; padded crimson silk waistband. (8600.-'50.)

766. Coat of Mail; "Zirah baktar;" the links of which it is composed are small, and unrivetted, of brass and steel, in alternate zigzag stripes; the collar and border are of crimson-brocaded silk (Kincob), edged with gold braid. *Lahore.* (-'55.)

CHINESE, ABYSSINIAN, AND ARAB.

Group on the right, facing the large screen.

CHINESE.

767. Glaive; sabre blade (2 ft. 1 in. long), attached to a long shaft (4 ft. 7 in.), painted red, and tipped at the butt-end with iron; *China.* L. 6 ft. 8 in.

768. Sword; long, slightly re-curved blade (3 ft. 7 in.), attached to a hilt (1 ft. 7 in.) of wood, bound with bamboo, and painted red; circular guard. *China.* L. 5 ft. 2 in.

769. Sword; slightly re-curved blade; wooden hilt; small circular guard. *China.* L. 2 ft. 6 in. (12,610.)

770-771. Swords; straight blades; sheaths of tortoise-shell, and green painted wood respectively; embossed brass mounts to hilt and sheath. *China.* L. 22 in. and 28 in. (12,606.)

772. Sword; straight blade; brass mounts to hilt and sheath. *China.* L. 2 ft. (12,606.)

773. Swords (a pair) the blades fitting into one sheath; the quillons of the hilt are turned, one towards the blade, the other to the hilt to form a knuckle-guard. *China.* L. 20 in. (12,589.)

774-777. Swords Fitting in pairs into two sheaths. Leather covered hilts. Embossed brass mounts. Sheaths of leather and tortoise-shell respectively, with embossed brass mounts. *China.* L. 22 in. by 24 in.

780-782. Maces. Shaped like daggers except that in place of the blade there is a tapering octagonal shaft of steel. The quillons are large and turned towards the shaft. L. 17 to 19 in. *China.* (12,594, 12,617, 12,628.)

783. Trident Spear. Long wooden shaft painted red. *China.* L. 5 ft. 8 in.

784, 85. Matchlock Guns. Very rough construction. Stocks painted red.

786 T. Matchlock. Massive carved stock. *China.*

787. Matchlock. Fine barrel. Small bore. Broad flat butt of light-coloured wood. *Burmah.* (12 533.-69.)

ABYSSINIA.

788, 789. Daggers. Broad blades. Unguarded wooden hilts. Leather sheaths. *Abyssinia.* L. 16½ in. Bl. 1¾ by 2½ in. wide.

790-792. Swords. Straight blades. Two with fluted ivory hilts, the third with wooden hilt, all unguarded. *Abyssinia.* L. 2 ft. 1 in.

793-797. Sabres. Deeply curved blades, cutting with either edge. Plain unguarded wooden hilts. *Abyssinia.*

ARAB (DECCAN).

798, 799. Daggers. "Jambiya." Abruptly curved, strongly ribbed blades. Wooden hilts, with

GROUP XII.

ARMS USED FOR ATHLETIC AND SACRIFICIAL PURPOSES.

Gladiatorial Contests, Military Games, and Festivals.

The martial exercises of the Indian people have never been carried to the extreme length of the gladiatorial games in which the Romans during the zenith and decline of their empire delighted; nor have they imitated the polished tournament of mediæval feudalism; but while they have combined some of the advantages and disadvantages of both systems, they have often in the trials of personal strength and dexterity in the practice of arms approached the spirit that animated the knights of chivalry in its best days. The courts of the native princes were the scenes of these games.

The Ain-i-Akbari gives us an account of the fighting gladiators who were kept at the court of the Great Mogul to form a pastime in the intervals of the warlike expeditions which formed the principal occupation of the rulers of India:—

"The *Shamsherbáz* or gladiators are of various kinds. Some of them use shields in fighting, others use cudgels. The latter are called *Lakráit*. Others again use no means of defence, and fight with one hand only; these are called *yak-hát'h*. Those who come from the eastern parts of Hindostan use a small shield called "*chirwah*." Those from the southern provinces have shields of such magnitude as to cover a man and a horse. This kind of shield is called *tilwah*.

"Another class, called *P'haráits*, use a shield somewhat less than the height of a man, and one *gaz* in breadth.

"Some again are called *Banáits*. They use a long sword, the handle of which is more than a *gaz* long; holding it with both hands they perform extraordinary feats of skill.

"There is another famous class called *Bankúlis*. These have no shield, but make use of a singular kind of sword, which, though bent towards the point, is straight near the handle. They wield it with great dexterity.

"Others are very skilful in fighting with daggers and knives of various forms; of these there are upwards of a hundred thousand. . . . . .

"There are many Persian and Túráni wrestlers and boxers (*Pahluwáns*) at court, as also stone-throwers, athletes of Hindostan, expert slingers (*Mals*) from Gujrát, and many other kinds of fighting men. Every day some of the above combat together and receive various rewards."[1]

The same taste pervaded all the martial races of India, and the accounts given at different times show how popular such entertainments were, and how, by means of them their martial spirit, and their bodily strength and dexterity in the use of arms were kept up in times of peace. The Rajput princes especially delighted in the exhibition of *Jatthis* or wrestlers. Every prince or chief entained a certain number of these champions, and the combats were looked forward to with great anxiety

which in the nature of a gauntlet were fixed to the back joint of their fingers, and had a terrific appearance when their fists were closed. Their heads were close shaved, their bodies oiled, and they wore only a pair of short drawers. On being matched, at a signal given from Tippoo, they began the combat by throwing the flowers which they wore round their necks, in each others faces; watching an opportunity of striking with the right hand on which they wore this weapon, which never failed to lacerate the flesh and draw blood copiously. They would frequently break each others arms and legs, and unless completely crippled, fought as long as Tippoo pleased.

One of these men challenged another from Tanjore to fight with "krises" (about sixteen inches long, sharp and taper at the end, and four inches wide towards the handle). They stood fronting each other till Tippoo finding them both staunch, relented, and ordered them to withdraw.

Marco Polo[1] mentions a curious custom prevalent on the Malabar coast. At Kail a port in the Tinnevelly district, if any one is insulted by the juice of the betel being spat in his face, he goes to the king, relates the insult that has been offered him, and demands leave to fight the offender. The King supplies the arms which are sword and target, and there the two fight till one of them is killed. They must not use the point of the sword, for this the king forbids. Barbosa,[2] speaking of the kingdom of Battecala in Canara, says of the same customs, "They engage without armour, only from the waist " upward they wear a tight jacket, and have a quantity of cotton cloth wrapped tight " round the chest and shoulders."

The training of these professional wrestlers is described by Broughton as part of a Sepoy's duties in a Mahratta camp, "The Sepoys in the rainy season perform athletic " exercises, which are conducted with a certain ceremonial. A sufficient space is marked " out and called 'Akhárá,' and is held sacred, no one entering with his shoes on. At one " end a small heap of earth is raised to which each one as he enters makes obeisance, and " adds a handful of earth. The most skilful performer is "Khalífa" or superintendent " for the season, and instructs the young 'Paṭṭhá' scholars. The first exercise is the " Dhun which consists in raising the body from the hands and feet, with the chest three " or four inches from the ground in a horizontal position, and continually repeating the " movement as long as the strength will permit. The next exercise is 'kooshtee' or " wrestling, at which they exhibit great dexterity. Those who attain a certain degree " of skill are dignified by the appellation of 'Puhlwan,' and are taken into the service " of the great men in India."[3]

The Sepoys also exercise with "Mugdars" and "Lezam;" the former are thick clubs of hard wood, about two feet or more in length, and from 14 to 20 pounds in weight, which are wielded like dumb bells. The "Lezam" is a stiff bow of bamboo, bent by a strong iron chain to which a number of small round plates of iron are affixed to increase the weight and make a jingling noise. The bow is used by stretching out the right and left arms alternately to the utmost extent.

peculiarly appropriate. The cannon were the most appropriate emblem of Durga; her trident was marked upon them, and the representation of her shrine was raised before them and surrounded with lamps. One of the chief religious acts in this festival is the capture of Lanká (*i.e.*, Ceylon) which is represented in honour of Ráma. Lanká is represented by a spacious castle with towers and battlements, which is assailed by an army dressed like Ráma and his followers, with Hanumán and his monkey allies. The combat ends in the destruction of Lanka amidst a blaze of fireworks. The Mahrattas at the same time commemorate Ráma's devotions, and his plucking a branch from a certain tree before he set out on his expedition.

At the close of the festival the Peshwa marched out of the city accompanied by the nobles, and preceded by the state equipages of elephants and led horses. On this occasion the Mahrattas went through the ceremony of plundering a field. The Peshwa led the way by tearing up a handful of corn, and his example was followed by all present, thus reminding themselves of their predatory origin. At the Dussera, the Rájpút chiefs worship the Samí tree (*Mimosa suma*) to commemorate the worship of Arjuna and his brothers who hung up their arms upon it. They address the tree under the name of "Asurájitá," the invincible goddess. On the same evening they worship the goddess "Gadhechí" the "fort protectress," and on their return join together in bands, brandishing their spears and galloping their horses, as in time of war.[1]

The irregular cavalry, under the East India Company, no less than at the present time, were proficient in martial exercises. Captain Mundy thus describes one of their tournaments:—

"The spearmen of Skinner's horse played their elegant exercise before us with long lances, tipped like foils with a button. Sometimes one fellow retreated at full speed, trailing his long spear after him with the point on the ground, and skilfully warding off the thrusts aimed at himself or his horse by his pursuer; then when he thought his assailant was off his guard, he would make a sudden wheel and assume the offensive, and in the midst of a cloud of dust, the too confident pursuer was thrust from his saddle, and rolled on the ground.

"One of Dongan's native irregular horse performed one of the most difficult feats with the spear. It is called *Nezah Bazee* or spear play. A tent peg is driven by a mallet some 8 or 10 inches into the earth, so firmly that the strength of two men would not suffice to draw it out. The horseman, holding his spear reversed in the rest, rides at full speed past the object, drives his weapon into the tough wood, drags it out of the earth, and brandishes it aloft; if he fails, the ferrule of the spear plunges deep into the earth, whilst the reverse end strikes the rider a violent blow at the back of the head. The greatest adept at the exercise only succeeded twice in five courses.

"At the camp of Scindia, two parties of Mahratta officers, showily attired, and mounted mostly on beautiful Deccanee horses, were ranged opposite each other on either end of a level piece of ground. Each man carried a lance made expressly for practice, much longer

When they at last came to blows, they laid about them in real earnest, striking with all their might and often with both hands. The extreme dexterity which they displayed in warding, with the little shield, their crafty feints, and the immense springs they occasionally made to avoid or surprise their adversary, drew loud plaudits. Towards the end of the combat, one of these supple fellows suddenly threw himself upon his knees, in order to cut at the legs of his opponent, and from that apparently helpless position, with the quickness of lightning, sprang back six or eight feet to escape the stroke that was descending on his head. The other in attempting to retort the same manœuvre, received a blow on the shoulder that echoed through the field, upon which the contending couple struck their swords and bucklers together, salaamed in token of amity, and swaggered out of the ring."

"The gauntlet sword whose blade is full five feet long, in the hands of a practised swordsman appears a terrible weapon, though to those unaccustomed to its use, it is but an awkward instrument. After a display of sundry sweeping and rotary cuts that would have severed a bullock's neck, four small limes were placed on the ground, equi-distant round the circle, and the performer describing a variety of evolutions not unlike an exaggerated waltz, approached them alternately and without pausing in his giddy career, divided each of them in two with a well aimed horizontal cut."[1]

Sword dances are common over the whole of India. In Coorg something of the nature of single-stick play is followed. It is called Kol Peria, or stick and shield play. Two men enter the arena, each armed with a long switch in the right hand, and a shield or a handful of whisks in the left; after defying one another, and jumping about in a strange manner, they slash at their adversaries' ankles and legs with the swish in their right hand. Hard blows are dealt out, but they are good-natured fellows, and the performers always embrace each other at the end of the play.

Part of their national dances is called *Kolhata*, or "strike," another stick dance, in which each man is provided with a couple of sticks just like those used at "La Grace." They move round and strike them alternately on those of their neighbours, all the dancers singing as they move.[2]

Before the introduction of rifled weapons into our army, the matchlock was superior both in accuracy and length of range to our musquet, and, as the following quotation will show, was well handled by some native troops. The competitors for the matchlock prizes in Skinner's Horse, thus conduct their exercises:—"A bottle is placed on the ground, or "suspended from a gibbet, and the column of mounted marksmen is formed up at right "angles with the spectators. At a signal from the officer one of the party gallops forth "at full speed, with his matchlock suspended across his bridle arm, darting past the "object at the distance of 15 or 20 yards. Just as he passes the rein drops from his hand,

is attended with peculiar ceremony in the Hindoo villages of the Garhwális in the Himálayas. The men from each side of the valley assemble by the river in opposite bodies, each on their own bank, armed with slings and blunt arrows. Each party with their "deptas," and the ark or dwelling place of the Deity, approach the river, and a mimic battle commences between the two, stones being slung and arrows discharged with all the skill and strength of the combatants, who encourage each other by shrill whistles and loud shouts. The "Deptas" must be brought down to the river and sprinkled with water, and when either party attempts to do this, the opposite one directs a shower of stones and arrows upon it, and often succeeds in driving back their opponents several times before they can accomplish their object.

In one of their religious ceremonies the "Pundap natch" or dance, the men strip to their waists, and daub their faces and bodies with "pitace," a yellow powder made from pine tree flowers. A club ("dángrá"), a bow and quiver, or some other weapon is flourished about by the male performers. Others walk bare-foot on the sharp edges of a long line of dangras, hatchets, and other weapons, held with their backs to the ground. These antics are performed in accordance with the character of the spirit supposed to have entered into them, and they will point to the handling of red hot iron without being burnt, and the walking on the blades of sharp weapons without being cut, as proof of the reality of the inspiration.

Besides these military games, the Bilúchís practise the Jaríd Bází, "spear-play," which is also common among all classes in Persia.

It is played by two men on horse-back, with a spear shaft 12 feet long. They gallop after each other, one throwing the Jaríd or spear shaft with full force, with the view of hitting and unhorsing his opponent, while he, by dexterous agility, has not only to elude the blow but to seize the weapon in the air and attack in turn.[1]

Group on the left, facing the large screen.

A.—ATHLETIC EXERCISES.

805. Clubs (a pair); "Mugdar;" of Sissoo wood, weighted with lead. *Lahore.* L. 2 ft. 9 in.

806. Dumb-Bells; of stone; circular, with transverse hilts. *Lahore.* Diam. 12 in.; weight, about 30 lbs. each.

807. Dumb-Bell; stone; small, circular. *Nepal.*

808. Chain-Bow; "Lezam;" bamboo, in lieu of string, an iron chain of very large links, to which are attached metal discs, making a jingling noise when the bow is used. *Lahore.* L. 4 ft. 6 in. (8888.-'51.)

B.—SACRIFICIAL AND OTHER WEAPONS.

811. Sacrificial Axe; "Kigalee (?)" or "K'harga" (Z. S.); broad and massive blade, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in length, terminating in an axe-like projection; short wooden handle. *Meerut.* L. 3 ft.; W. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 6 in. (12559.-'69.)

812. Sacrificial Axe; "Kigalee;" similar to the preceding example. *Meerut.* L. 2 ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; W. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 5 in. (8825.-'55.)

813 T. State Sword of the executioner of the King of Oude; gigantic and massive blade 3 ft. 3 in. long by 6 in. wide, bearing the arms of the King of Oude inlaid in silver; handle (2 ft. 9 in. long) covered with stamped leather; silver